I HATE YOU, DAD

by
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HAPPY MADISON
SONY 2ND DRAFT
12/04/08

SUPER: **NEW JERSEY - 1984**

INT. GRADE SCHOOL - MORNING

13 YEAR OLD DONNY stands with his BUDDIES at his locker. He pulls out TWO CONCERT TICKETS -- the Buddies ADMIRE them.

13 YEAR OLD DONNY
Read em and weep. Springsteen at the Meadowlands. Third row. I bagged a lot of groceries to get these. Now all I need is a date.

Donny looks across the hall: A group of GIGGLING GIRLS talk by their lockers. The boys evaluate them.

BUDDY
You should take Jolene, man. I bet she'd let you feel her up.

13 YEAR OLD DONNY
Jolene has an Andy Gibb backpack. This is The Boss. Get serious. Ugh, I think I'm just not into girls anymore.
(off his Buddies' SHOCK)
I'm into women.

Donny NODS toward the end of the hall -- they TURN --

SLOW-MOTION: The sea of kids PARTS -- in STRUTS the hottest teacher of the 1980s, MARY MCGARRICLE (perfect, like if Kate Hudson had big Jersey hair). SO. HOT. AS. SHE. STRUTS.

Buddy SHIVERS -- then covers his crotch with an "A-TEAM" FOLDER. Donny SMILES coolly, steps forward.

13 YEAR OLD DONNY (CONT'D)
Hey Mary, you're lookin smokin hot today. I've got two tickets to Springsteen this weekend, you in?

MARY MCGARRICLE
(incredulous)
It's *Miss McGarricle*, Donny. And that's sweet, but, I'm your teacher, not your girlfriend.

13 YEAR OLD DONNY
Whoa, whoa, *Miss McGarricle*, who said anything about girlfriends?
(MORE)

13 YEAR OLD DONNY (cont'd)
Let's just start with a summer fling - a couple handjobs, no expectations - see where it goes. Don't get all psycho on me right away.

His Buddies LAUGH -- Mary McGarricle's PISSED.

MARY MCGARRICLE
You know, I usually only give *handjobs* to guys that've gone through puberty.

DONNY'S BUDDIES
Oooooh!/Burned!

13 YEAR OLD DONNY
(goes red, embarrassed)
Oh yeah? Well...um...
(PULLS down his shorts just enough)
What time should I pick you up!?

MARY MCGARRICLE
That's a month's detention!

INT. MARY MCGARRICLE'S CLASSROOM - AFTER SCHOOL

Mary McGarricle GRADES A PAPER at her desk. Donny enters -- she doesn't look up, she just keeps writing. Donny DROPS the blinds on the door window.

13 YEAR OLD DONNY
(coyly)
Oops. Did I do that?

MARY MCGARRICLE
Sit down, Donny.

13 YEAR OLD DONNY
Whoa, listen, I get that you gotta act tough in front of the other kids. That's smart. But, we're alone now. Let your guard down.

Mary shakes her head, keeps writing. He walks toward her.

13 YEAR OLD DONNY (CONT'D)
C'mon, I've seen the way you look at me in my gym shorts. It's okay. Let yourself have this. Don't worry, I can keep a secret.
(she just keeps writing)
(MORE)

13 YEAR OLD DONNY (CONT'D)
You're scared, I'm scared, we're all scared. The world thinks I'm too young. But you know what they say, "Once you go young, you never...have had so much fun." Or something. Who cares what the world thinks? Treat yourself.

He KISSES his bicep. Mary STOPS writing, looks up.

MARY MCGARRICLE
You're in a lot of trouble, Donny.

13 YEAR OLD DONNY
(scared like a kid)
Wait, you're not gonna call my dad, are you? He'll kick my ass. Seriously. C'mon, I was just kidding around.

MARY MCGARRICLE
So you *don't* want me?

13 YEAR OLD DONNY
What? No. I mean, yeah. I'm not sure what I'm supposed to say here.

Mary stands up, walks around the desk slowly.

MARY MCGARRICLE
I've been watching you since the first day of school in September. When you hit that game winning 3 pointer to beat Fairfield Junior High - God that was so hot. I've tried to ignore this feeling, cause I thought it was wrong, but maybe you're right, who cares what the world thinks?

She stops right in front of him -- he LAUGHS nervously.

13 YEAR OLD DONNY
Ha, ha, very funny, Miss McGarricle. Hittin me with the old reverse thing. I get.

MARY MCGARRICLE
No, you don't. I think we're meant to be together.

She grabs the PAPER she was "grading", hands it to him: it's COVERED in junior high style LOVE DOODLES (Mary+Donny 4 Ever; hearts; etc.). Donny's eyes WIDEN. She UNDOES HER PONYTAIL.

13 YEAR OLD DONNY
Ohmigod, is this happening?

MARY MCGARRICLE
Oh it's happening, Donny. Right now.

She puts a HAND through his hair -- he RAMBLES nervously.

13 YEAR OLD DONNY
Okay, awesome. I'm totally in. But, um, so how do you wanna do it? I mean - I've made love before - a lot...of ways. How should we start? Just go straight to handjobs, or --

She puts a FINGER to his lips. His voice cracks --

13 YEAR OLD DONNY (CONT'D)
I'm - a virgin.

MARY MCGARRICLE
Don't worry. I'll teach you.

HER LIPS APPROACH HIS LIPS AND THEN THEY --

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

A PACKED courtroom. It's a MEDIA CIRCUS. The JUDGE (50, female) SLAMS her gavel!

JUDGE
Order. Order!
(the courtroom settles)
I know a lot of people think this "situation" is every young boy's ultimate fantasy.

The MALE BAILIFF nods absentmindedly (as do ALL THE MEN).

JUDGE (CONT'D)
BUT, that doesn't change the fact that this is a serious crime.
(sternly)
(MORE)

JUDGE (CONT'D)
The state of New Jersey finds Mary Beth McGarricle guilty on 15 counts of statutory rape.

BEHIND THE DEFENSE TABLE, Mary McGarricle (orange prison jumpsuit) goes WHITE, then turns to the gallery --

MARY MCGARRICLE
I love you Donny!

14 YEAR OLD DONNY stands up in the audience.

14 YEAR OLD DONNY
I love you too, Miss McGarricle!

The room EXPLODES WITH CHATTER -- the Judge SLAMS her gavel! DONNY'S DAD (blue collar, mean) PULLS Donny down roughly.

JUDGE
(incredulous)
The fact that this "relationship" has been going on for a *year*, that it resulted in a *pregnancy*, and that you show no remorse...
(shakes her head)
Mary McGarricle, rise for sentencing.

Mary McGarricle STRUGGLES to get out of her chair -- REVEAL she is 8 MONTHS PREGNANT. Her LAWYER helps her to her feet.

JUDGE (CONT'D)
I have no choice but to levy the maximum penalty: 30 years in the Jersey Women's Penitentiary.
(the room ERUPTS)
FURTHERMORE, the court grants custody of the unborn child to Donny Levine's father, until Donny is 18, at which time, he will assume full custody.

Donny's Dad SLAPS Donny on the back of the head. The Bailiff PULLS Mary McGarricle away -- she TURNS --

MARY MCGARRICLE
TAKE CARE OF OUR SON, DONNY!

FADE TO BLACK

SUPER: **NEW YORK - 25 YEARS LATER**

EXT. MANHATTAN - SUNRISE

The SUN RISES behind the epic Manhattan skyline.

EXT. UPPER EAST SIDE - SAME

A "NEW YORK TIMES" VAN inches down an affluent street as the driver tosses NEWSPAPERS at very expensive townhouses. We hear a guy SINGING badly but with passion.

SINGING GUY (V.O.)
If you want love, we'll make it,
Swim in a deep sea of blankets,
Take your big plans and break em,
This is bound to be awhile...

INT. TODD AND STACEY'S TOWNHOUSE, SHOWER - LATER

Find the singing guy: TODD (25) dances as he showers. HE'S ON TOP OF THE WORLD.

TODD (SINGING)
Your body is a wonderland!
I'll use my hands...

REVEAL that Todd's wearing SWIM TRUNKS. He soaps himself UNDER the trunks, as if that's TOTALLY NORMAL.

EXT. TODD AND STACEY'S TOWNHOUSE - LATER

The DOOR to their EXPENSIVE TOWNHOUSE opens -- STACEY (29, gorgeous, robe) grabs the PAPER excitedly -- TEARS through it to a SECTION -- then looks at it EMOTIONALLY.

STACEY
It's beautiful.

INT. BEDROOM - LATER

Todd pulls a shirt from his OCD CLOSET (suffocatingly neat, color-coded, etc.) as Stacey SKIPS in, practically singing.

STACEY
How excited are you right now!?

TODD
I'd say off the charts, or, like, right at the edge of the charts.

She rolls her eyes, then shows him the PAPER: a PHOTO of Todd and Stacey, MID-LAUGH, covers the "WEDDING SECTION". DORKY.

TODD (CONT'D)
Wow. I just - I still don't get why we did this. Who announces their wedding? I feel like that only happens on "Sex and the City".

STACEY
It's the *cover* of the Memorial Day weekend wedding section. Last year was Tory Burch.
(Todd hasn't heard of her)
C'mon, look how great we look...

TODD
(examines the photo)
Yeah...I guess we look good, but...

STACEY
(kisses his cheek)
We look perfect.

TODD
(smiles)
Yeah, we do. Alright, c'mon honey, get ready. The caterer's coming and we gotta get to the airport.

STACEY
Todd, my parents don't land for three hours. Relax.

TODD
I just want this weekend to be perfect.

STACEY
Stop worrying. We're gonna have the best wedding ever.

She SKIPS to the shower. He examines the article, <u>CONCERNED</u>.

TODD
I just - I mean, this thing's got our names, and our picture and everything. I just don't want people knowing how to...find us.

STACEY (O.S.)
How to *find us*? Take a Xanax. Who are you so afraid is gonna see this?

CUT TO:

EXT. NEW JERSEY - MORNING

DONNY (39 now, out of shape, tight jeans, dressed like mid-80s Springsteen) leans against an empty above-ground hot tub, nursing a Schlitz wide mouth. HE'S AT ROCK BOTTOM.

DONNY
Hey, hey, listen. I know what you're thinking. You're thinking, *"Oh my God, it's Donny Levine. I'm a huge fan. Can I have a picture or something that I could send to my sister who's totally in love with you and legitimately hot?"*
(SWIGS the beer)
Don't worry, I get that all the time. Blah, blah, blah, I was one of Morton Downey Jr.'s most intriguing people of 1985. But that's not important anymore.
(takes a LONG, SAD SWIG)
I mean, that's not important right now. What I'm trying to say is...that's not the reason you should buy this hot tub.

PULL OUT TO REVEAL a shitty lot full of hot tubs: "DONNY LEVINE'S HOT FOR TEACHER USED HOT TUBS". He's trying to sell a tub to a CONSERVATIVE COUPLE (60s). He hands them a BOOK.

DONNY (CONT'D)
And, this signed copy of my second novel - which is a gift either way - is also not the reason you should buy this tub. Though, it's a pretty serious potential Ebay gem.

SHOT of the BOOK COVER: Young Donny sits pensively on the swings, "EXTRA CREDIT: <u>MORE</u> OF THE DONNY LEVINE STORY".

DONNY (CONT'D)
Nope. The reason you should buy this perfectly maintained pre-owned beauty is cause it's a Whirlington.
(MORE)

DONNY (CONT'D)
And nothing holds up as good as a Whirlington. Not a Beachton, not a Jetspa, not a Coleman.

Donny tries to HOP into the empty tub -- but FALLS IN FACE FIRST instead. He POPS UP, hurt, but continues to sell.

DONNY (CONT'D)
Eight dual core jets; three speeds; double reinforced linoleum benches -
(caresses the paint)
Baby blue splatter celebration finish? This is the expensive champagne of above-ground spas. And it's in mint condition.

WIFE
(inspecting the tub)
Is that a blood stain?

DONNY
Probably.
(stares at the tub SADLY)
...It used to be the life of the party. Now it's just empty inside.

HUSBAND
Uh...we're really just browsing.

DONNY
Alright. Brass tacks: What if I were to tell you I made love to Joyce Dewitt in this very hot tub?

WIFE
You mean, like, in this same model?

DONNY
Nope, in this *actual* tub. Previous owner's a buddy of mine. Well, *was* a buddy of mine. Til I borrowed his girlfriend.
(nostalgic)
But, man, did we have some summer nights in here... The ladies cannot resist a Whirlington.

Donny puts up a HI-FIVE for the Husband, who DOESN'T slap it. So, he DRIFTS the HI-FIVE toward the Wife hopefully...NOPE.

HUSBAND
...We'll think about it.

They walk away, FAST. Donny DOWNS his beer, goes after them.

DONNY
Wait, wait. Lemme bottom line it for you. I'm having serious personal problems.
(they're SO UNCOMFORTABLE)
I owe the IRS a lot of money. That's just me getting real with you right now. So, what I need you to do, is buy some hot tubs. *Please?*

HUSBAND
(indicates a PIZZA PLACE)
Sorry, but, we were just killing time while we waited for our pizza.

DONNY
You know, Ian Ziering played me in a movie of the week. And we still hang out socially.
(the Couple HURRIES away)
Fine. I don't need you. Maybe I'll write another novel. How many novels have you written?!

EXT. 1-800 LAWYERS - LATER

Donny PACES outside a STRIP MALL LAW FIRM: "1-800-LAWYERS". He takes a nervous DEEP BREATH, then looks up.

DONNY
C'mon, God. One time!

INT. 1-800-LAWYERS - MOMENTS LATER

Donny sits across from his lawyer, CRAIG. Both ANXIOUS.

CRAIG
So...you got any big plans for the long weekend? Go out and kinda live every day like it's your last?

DONNY
What'd the IRS say, Craig? Are they taking my hot tub dealership?

CRAIG
Oh, Don...yeah, man. It's a lot worse than that.

DONNY
(deep breath)
Alright. Just hit me with it. Real quick. Like pulling off a --

CRAIG
3 years in prison.

DONNY
3 years!? You son of a bitch.

CRAIG
You haven't paid taxes since '94.

DONNY
I thought they were taking it out automatically. Did you even tell them that?

CRAIG
...Yeah. They didn't care. But listen, if you'd let me finish, there is some good news. If you can pay off the interest, they'll suspend the sentence. For now.

DONNY
Okay, okay. There you go. What're we talking? Throw it at me --

CRAIG
43,346 --

Donny THROWS his chair against the wall!

DONNY
I thought you were gonna say like 300 bucks!

CRAIG
And...you only have til Monday to come up with the cash. Wait, actually, Monday's Memorial Day, so you have a whole extra day.

DONNY
Oh, thank God, that'll gimme time to sell my DIAMOND LAMBORGHINI! We are no longer friends, Craig.

Donny KICKS the wall -- his entire leg goes THROUGH the cheap wood panelling! He awkwardly STRUGGLES to free himself.

CUT TO:

A SIGN: “CLASSY RICK’S BACON AND LEGGS” NEON LIGHTS UP: “GIRLS!” (beat) “GIRLS!” (beat) “BREAKFAST!”.

INT. CLASSY RICK’S BACON AND LEGGS - LATER

The most depressing strip club/breakfast buffet on earth. A STRIPPER IN AN ARM CAST dances the pole clumsily.

Donny picks at some eggs AS he gets a NONCHALANT SEXLESS LAP DANCE from CHAMPALE (50, worn, Jersey smoker’s voice). They talk CASUALLY THROUGHOUT (she’s like his SHRINK/CONSIGLIERE).

DONNY
What did I do to my life, Champale?

CHAMPALE
Don, honey, everything happens for a reason. You’re gonna be okay.

DONNY
You know what the worst part is? I thought about it, and jail’s not necessarily a step down from what I got going right now. I’m about to turn 40, I live at the Y, and the only thing I’m good at is being Donny Levine. But no one wants to pay for the Donny Levine story anymore.
(sighs)
I guess there’s always gonna be a younger, better looking kid...who got raped by his teacher.
(beat)
Statutory. But, still.

She pats his shoulder, sympathetic. Donny puts his beer down on a FOLDED NY TIMES -- IT CATCHES HIS EYE -- HE PICKS IT UP.

DONNY (CONT’D)
Holy shit.

CHAMPALE
What?

DONNY
It’s my son.

CHAMPALE
(shocked, stops dancing)
Oh my god, really? Are you sure it's him?

DONNY
It's only been 8 years. He's lost a *ton* of weight...but see that scar on his forehead? That's from when I dropped him in the urinal at the Met game.

CHAMPALE
(takes it, reads)
"Todd Peterson to wed Stacey Hayward this Sunday at The Plaza." Todd Peterson?

DONNY
I guess that's his name now.

CHAMPALE
"Peterson's the youngest ever large-cap hedge fund manager, all the more impressive considering he was *orphaned*...at age 9...when both his parents died in a horrific explosion." Ooh. Sorry, sweetie.

DONNY
(chokes up a bit)
Hey, I'm mad at him, too.

CHAMPALE
Donny, this has gotta stop. Your <u>son's</u> getting <u>married</u>. That's once in a lifetime. Ideally. You gotta be there. Besides, maybe he'd even help you, if you stop being a dick.

DONNY
He's the dick! And I would never make the first move. *And*, I don't need his money, Champale. I'm Donny Levine. I've got options.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. DONNY'S FIERO - LATER

Donny CHOKES BACK TEARS as he talks on his HUGE '80s cell phone in his shitty '88 FIERO.

DONNY (ON THE PHONE)
Hello, is this Amy at the Maury Povich show? ...She died? Are you sure? ...Wow, 9 years ago? Well, my condolences. Anyhoo...this is Donny Levine and - get ready to be happy - I'd like to offer Maury an *exclusive* 1 hour interview with me for the low, low price of 43 thou --
(beat, deflates)
Yeah. Sure. L-E-V-I --

LATER

DONNY (ON THE PHONE)
Yo, this message is for Montel. Hey, brotha. I caught your last couple 'Hot For Teacher' episodes. Not good. I know I coulda added some valuable veteran insight. I'm *super* busy right now. Swamped. But, I am available. Immediately.

LATER

DONNY (ON THE PHONE)
Fine. Sally Jesse's entitled to her side of the story. But, did you ever think that maybe *she* gave *me* Hepatitis? Is *that* possible?

He THROWS the phone aside, then FLIPS DOWN THE VISOR -- REVEAL an old PHOTO: YOUNG DONNY and YOUNG TODD (CHUBBY as a kid) smiling.

Donny LOOKS at the photo, then RIPS it down -- REVEAL Donny's face in the VISOR MIRROR -- he stares at himself, DEPRESSED.

DISSOLVE TO:

TODD'S FACE IN HIS VISOR MIRROR.

INT. TODD'S MERCEDES, AT LAGUARDIA AIRPORT - DAY

Todd (suit/tie) examines himself as Stacey scans the AIRPORT CROWD for her parents.

TODD
Great. I'm sweating like Meatloaf over here.
(MORE)

TODD (cont'd)
(sings)
"I would do anything for love..."

STACEY
I don't know why you're always so nervous around my parents. They love you.

TODD
Are you sure? Even your dad?

STACEY
Yes I'm sure. He's just protective, you know? I'm his baby girl.

TODD
I feel like when he looks at me, all he sees is my penis going into your vagina.

Stacey laughs, then SPOTS her folks. She CLAPS excitedly, and HOPS OUT! Todd psyches himself up in the VISOR MIRROR.

TODD (CONT'D)
You made 2 million dollars last year. People like you.
(looks up to God)
One time!

EXT. TODD'S MERCEDES, AT LAGUARDIA - MOMENTS LATER

Stacey's BLUE COLLAR parents, HELEN (50, hot) and JON HAYWARD (60, tough), RUN UP AND HUG Stacey! Todd puts out his hand.

TODD
Mr. and Mrs. Hayward, I want you to know that I promise to take care of your baby girl forever.

HELEN HAYWARD
Aww, you're too sweet. And for the last time, it's Helen and Jon. We're family now.

She HUGS him! Todd smiles, then goes to HUG Jon -- Jon puts out a HANDSHAKE -- Todd awkwardly ADJUSTS, shakes. Beat.

HELEN HAYWARD (CONT'D)
Stace, guess who was on our plane?

She motions to her right as -- a cheesy model looking guy, CHAD (30, in all Ed Hardy crap), and his cheesy model girlfriend, MIA (18, same), walk up, smiling.

STACEY
Chad! Yay!
(they hug enthusiastic)
And who is this gorgeous girl?

CHAD
This is my plus one, Mia.

STACEY
Wow, she's sooo pretty.

CHAD
I know, right?

MIA
(to Stacey)
Me? Look at you. You're gorgeous.

The girls giggle, then hug. Todd kinda waits to the side.

TODD
No, you're pretty...

STACEY
Honey, this is Chad! I'm so glad you guys are finally meeting. You remember, my best friend from ASU...

TODD
Yes! Of course. The...life guard?

CHAD
Life coach. But, hey, we both save lives.

TODD
(thinks Chad's an idiot)
...Right.

They shake hands -- Chad PULLS Todd into a BRO HUG THING.

CHAD
She's a special girl, bro. The best. Treat her right, bro.

TODD
Of course. Totally. Bro.

Stacey notices her mom is CHOKED UP.

STACEY
Aww, Mom, are you crying already?

HELEN HAYWARD
My baby's getting married. This is a big moment in a mother's life.
(to Todd)
Sorry honey, I know this whole thing must be bittersweet for you.

TODD
Why?

HELEN HAYWARD
You know...cause of your parents.

TODD
Oh, no, please, don't worry. It was a long time ago.

HELEN HAYWARD
Well, I know they'll be smiling down from heaven all weekend.

TODD
(fake chokes up)
Yeah. They woulda loved all this.

Helen HUGS him again -- Todd SMILES (HE LOVES THE LOVE).

HELEN HAYWARD
We're all the family you need.

EXT. SHITTY MOTEL ROOM - LATER

Donny PACES outside a shitty motel room, nervous. He takes a deep breath, then KNOCKS. IAN ZIERING (44, unshaven, briefs) answers, NOT HAPPY to see Donny. TENSE SILENCE. Then --

DONNY
Whaazzzuuuuuuup?
(Ziering nods defiantly)
Hey, Ziering. Listen, I don't know where we're at right now, if you're still mad at me or --

ZIERING
You slept with my mom.

DONNY
I know, I know. But in my defense, she came on *really* strong --

Ziering tries to SLAM the door -- Donny CATCHES it!

DONNY (CONT'D)
You're really gonna let that end a 20 year friendship? Besides, it was like '92, man.

ZIERING
Yeah, but I just found out.

DONNY
Stop being selfish! I'm in real trouble. I need money. Fast.

ZIERING
You're unbelievable. What about the 10 grand I gave you to open that Laser Tag? You said I'd double my money.

DONNY
Oh, c'mon, Ziering! You've got that sweet 90210 cash!

ZIERING
Really!? When's the last time you saw a new episode!? I live in this motel, man. I WORK AT AN ICE RINK!

He tries to PUSH the door shut -- Donny HOLDS it open (an AWKWARD TUG O' WAR ensues)!

DONNY
That's it for the band then, too? 16 years of playing Springsteen covers shoulder to shoulder and you throw it away cause me and your mom hooked up? C'mon, man, we're called Two Hearts. I'm gonna look pretty silly up there alone.

ZIERING
Yeah, well...I'm not even that into Springsteen anymore --

SHOCKED, Donny PUNCHES him in the face! Ziering TACKLES Donny! They roll around until Ziering ELBOWS him in the nose HARD and KICKS him out! Donny looks up at him, BLEEDING, <u>SAD</u>.

DONNY
We were in a couple threesomes together, man. That used to mean something.

Ziering hesitates, then SLAMS the door!

INT. DONNY'S FIERO - LATER

Donny drops into his Fiero BAWLING UNCONTROLLABLY. He CRIES like a baby for awhile...then his phone RINGS. He SWALLOWS his tears --

DONNY (ON THE PHONE)
Hello? ...Yes, this is Donny. You ran it by Montel? What did he - No, the interview would just be me.
(deflates)
Yeah, I get that you've already done 6 shows on me alone - What's the new angle on my story? Um... how bout Donny Levine: Raped again, but this time BY A MAN! IN PRISON!
(beat, listens)
You do like that? Well, no it hasn't happened yet. ...Maybe I *will* call you when it does!

He THROWS the phone down, lies back, nose BLEEDING, BEATEN. He looks at the shotgun seat: **TODD'S WEDDING ARTICLE.**

INT. TODD AND STACEY'S TOWNHOUSE - THAT NIGHT

CATERERS prepare for a COCKTAIL PARTY as Todd, Stacey, Jon, Helen, Chad and Mia (all dressed up) talk.

HELEN HAYWARD
This place is amazing.

JON HAYWARD
It better be for 4.6 million bucks.

TODD
Oh, so, Stace told you how much we - Well, I guess we're all family now.

JON HAYWARD
You coulda bought a whole town for that.

TODD
...In Guatemala.

No one laughs. Awkward silence. Stacey jumps in.

STACEY
You know, Daddy, Todd's about to be made partner at his hedge fund.

TODD
It's not for sure, yet. It's still between me and a couple guys.

HELEN HAYWARD
Well, you deserve it.
(prods her husband)
Right, Jon?

JON HAYWARD
(relents, smiles at Todd)
Yeah. I know you're a hard worker.

TODD
Actually, I just slept my way to the top. Mr. Hayward.

BEAT. Todd thinks he went too far...but then Jon LAUGHS.

JON HAYWARD
Whatever works.
(Todd laughs)
And really, call me Jon, okay?

Stacey SMILES at Todd. The doorbell RINGS -- she GETS UP.

STACEY
I'll get it. You guys talk.

TODD
So, Jon, Stace told me you're a Scotch drinker, right?

JON HAYWARD
If you're buying.

TODD
I've got something I think you're really gonna like.
(goes to the bar)
Anyone else? Chad?

CHAD
I'd take a Diet Redbull vodka if you have it.

TODD
...Not sure I've got that.

JON HAYWARD
Maybe just get him a wine cooler.

Jon and Todd <u>SHARE A LAUGH</u> (THE FATHER IS THAWING!!).

AT THE FRONT DOOR - SAME

Stacey opens the door to -- Donny. He reacts to her hotness.

DONNY
Wow. You must be Stacey.

STACEY
Yeah. Hi. You must be...

DONNY
Donny.
(off her silence)
Han's never even mentioned me?

STACEY
Who's Han?

DONNY
(annoyed)
Oh, I mean, *Todd*.

STACEY
No, I'm sure he has...

DONNY
Wait, where are my manners?
Congratulations!

He hands her an AUTOGRAPHED BOOK. She looks at the COVER: Young Donny at a desk, "HEAD IN THE CLASS: THE DONNY LEVINE STORY".

DONNY (CONT'D)
My first novel. I came up with the title myself. It's like "Head *of* the Class", but, you know...BJs.
(Stacey's lost)
...I'm also making you guys a couple mixtapes.

STACEY
...How did you say you and Todd knew each other again?

DONNY
Well, funny story...

BACK IN THE LIVING ROOM

Jon takes a sip of his Scotch as Todd looks on.

JON HAYWARD
Wow. Keep these coming, and you and I are gonna get along great.

TODD
I know, right? It's really nice.

As Todd takes a BIG SIP, BEHIND HIM Stacey enters with Donny.

STACEY
(confused)
Uh, Todd, your...*dad's* here?

DONNY
Whaaazzzuuuuuup!?

TODD COUGHS HIS SCOTCH ALL OVER HELEN'S FACE/WHITE DRESS!

TODD
Oh, god - Helen, I'm so sorry. Wrong pipe. Shit. Here --

He tries to DRY HER OFF with his napkin -- Jon GRABS Todd's hands GRUFFLY, takes over the drying of his wife.

TODD (CONT'D)
Right. Sorry.
(to Donny)
Donny, what - are you doing?

DONNY
(laughs like it's obvious)
Uh, I don't know, thought I'd swing by my son's wedding.

Everyone looks to Todd CONFUSED.

JON HAYWARD
I thought your parents were dead.

TODD
(covers poorly)
No, they are. So dead. He's hilarious. "My dad." This is my old *friend* from the...
(can't think of anything)
Whazzzzuuup!? We're trying to bring that back. Cause it was *not* stupid the first time.

He grabs Donny's hand and tries to FAKE an elaborate SCRIPTED HANDSHAKE -- Donny doesn't cooperate, UPSET BY THE LIE.

TODD (CONT'D)
See, we've got this joke where he tells people he's my dad...and it's hilarious cause my parents actually died. In an explosion.

HELEN HAYWARD
That doesn't sound funny.

TODD
Well, yeah, you had to be there.

HELEN HAYWARD
...At the explosion?

TODD
No, at the inception of the joke - Donny, I can't believe you made it!
(PATS him on the back)
Yes! YES!
(PATS HIM HARDER)
What? You need a drink? OKAY!

He PULLS Donny into the kitchen as everyone exchanges a LOOK.

KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

They yell at each other in a LOUD WHISPER THROUGHOUT.

TODD
What're you doing here!?

DONNY
Why do you keep telling everyone I exploded!?

TODD
I WISH YOU DID EXPLODE!

DONNY
(hurt)
...God. Really? But...don't you at least *sorta* want your dad at your wedding?

TODD
You're not my dad!

DONNY
Oh, yeah!? Let's put it to a vote!

Donny STARTS out -- Todd GRABS his arm, tries to reason.

TODD
Wait. Don. She'll call off the wedding, okay? If she finds out I've been lying - and I'm just barely starting to win her dad over - minus the whole spitting Scotch on his wife thing. But, please --

STACEY (O.S.)
Todd? Honey, is everything okay?

TODD
(to O.S., fake laughing)
If by okay you mean the best night of my life, then yeah, everything's *okay*.
(to Donny, pleading)
Please. After the wedding. I'll tell everyone about you. But, for now, can you just be my ***friend***?
(off Donny's RELUCTANCE)
I'VE NEVER ASKED YOU FOR ANYTHING!

DONNY
THIS REALLY HURTS MY FEELINGS!

LIVING ROOM

Todd walks Donny into the living room. Everyone's CURIOUS. Todd NERVOUSLY tries to improvise (he's terrible at it).

TODD
Sorry. I was just so excited cause he told me he couldn't make it, and then he's here. But that's so him. We call him the...Terminator. Which is unrelated, but --
(introduces everyone)
Okay, so, my future father-in-law, Jon; his great wife, Helen; we've got Chad and Mia - who are so good looking. I mean, literally, you guys look like two magazine covers sitting on our couch. Maxim and... Men's Health. Or Details.
(awkward beat)
And then my blushing bride Stacey - who I've told you so much about. This is my old friend, Donny.

DONNY
Best friend. Hey everybody.

STACEY
Your best friend?

TODD
Yeah. You remember the stories I told you about all those times we.....had? Donny.

STACEY
Not really.

TODD
Yeah...we met when...

DONNY
-- I saved his life.

STACEY
What? Really?

TODD
Well, more metaphorically --

DONNY
It was one of those subway deals. He dropped his burrito on the tracks, and when he went to grab it, the train was coming. I pushed him outta the way. We've been best friends ever since.

Everyone is REALLY BLOWN AWAY.

HELEN HAYWARD
Wow. That's so brave.

DONNY
It wasn't really me. It was something working through me.

STACEY
Oh my god. Todd, I can't believe you never told me this story.

TODD
(GLARES at Donny)
Yeah, well...it was a little embarrassing that I would go onto the *subway tracks* to pick up a *burrito*.

HELEN HAYWARD
What were you thinking, honey?

CHAD
We should talk, bro. You sound like you could really use a life coach.

TODD
...Oh, thanks, bro, but --

STACEY
(to Donny)
Well, I'm so glad you made it. I guess this weekend woulda never happened without you. My folks are staying upstairs, so we'll put you in the downstairs guest room, okay? No arguments, you're staying here.

Todd's eyes WIDEN with fear.

DONNY
Wow, thank you. You're even sweeter than Todd said you were.

HELEN HAYWARD
(stands up, re: dress)
So, I'm gonna just go change into something a little more...dry, before everyone gets here.

TODD
Again, Helen, so sorry about the whole wrong pipe thing.

HELEN HAYWARD
Oh, no, don't worry, honey.

CHAD
(holds up DONNY'S BOOK)
Wait, you're Donny Levine?
(to the room)
Remember that kid that got his teacher pregnant in Newark?
(everyone nods a little)
Man, you were a god to me and my friends. She was so hot, bro.

DONNY
Thanks. It's great to meet a fan.

CHAD
Hey, whatever happened to your kid?

DONNY
(GLARES at Todd)
He's a dick.
(off everyone's LOOK)
...You know, like a private eye. Really successful. He's one of the biggest dicks in the world.

TODD
Okay! So, Donny probably wants to change too --

CHAD
You know, I got close once. Mrs. Weiss, freshman geometry. I think she woulda done it, too. I just didn't know how to make the move.

DONNY
That's where a lot of guys get tripped up. I just grabbed her and said, "Miss McGarricle, the student has become the teacher. Of sex."
(Todd tries to usher Donny away)
My third novel was actually gonna be a 'How-To' book, but the publishers wouldn't release it. Something about "encouraging child molestation".

Todd just DROPS his head, defeated.

INT. GUEST BEDROOM (DONNY'S ROOM) - LATER

Donny throws his GARBAGE BAG "SUITCASE" on the floor and looks around the room, IMPRESSED, as Todd FRETS.

DONNY
I always knew you'd be making guest room money. You were like a little Rain Man with numbers. Up top.

Donny puts up a HI-FIVE -- Todd leaves him HANGING.

TODD
You saved my life? Really!?

DONNY
C'mon, they ate it up. And you came with a whole lotta nothing.
(feels the bed)
(MORE)

DONNY (cont'd)
You guys wouldn't happen to have a water-bed in the house? I haven't slept on a mattress in 15 years.

TODD
Wow. So, you've figured out a way to be creepy even while you sleep.
(Donny GLARES at him)
Don, in 20 minutes, every person that matters in my life is coming here. Stacey's friends, my boss - Shit. Maybe you could just say something really important came up at work and you gotta go. Though, who's gonna believe you have a job?

DONNY
(hurt)
Wow, you really want me gone that bad, Han?

TODD
You can't call me that! My name's Todd Peterson now. Todd.

DONNY
Really though? You coulda changed it to anything, like, Leon, or... Val Kilmer. And you chose Todd Peterson? It's so...normal.

TODD
I WANNA BE NORMAL! --

Stacey enters with a pillow -- Todd smiles, guiltily -- she hands the pillow to Donny, a little curious.

DONNY
Thanks, Stace. And, hey, I want you to know how much this weekend means to me. *Nothing* could pull me away from here. Literally. I would quit ten jobs if I had to.
(smiles at Todd)
These are the weekends that make up the years of our lives.

Todd rolls his eyes at the idiocy -- Stacey eats it up.

STACEY
Awww, that's so sweet.

She hugs him, walks out. Donny takes off his shirt, goes through his garbage bag (smelling t-shirts). Todd sighs.

TODD
Why are you here, Don? Money? You heard I'm doing well, you thought you could show up after *eight years*, and I'd give you a hand out? I would never give you a dime!

DONNY
What? No. I don't need your money. That hurts. I want...
(thinks long)
I want to, you know, give you away at your wedding, and...be your dad. C'mon, why don't you just try calling me dad. See how it feels.

TODD
First off, *Don*, you don't give the groom away at a wedding. And second, why would I want you to be my dad? Your suitcase is also a garbage bag - which is just amazing for a 40 year old man. And, not sure if you remember, but you were the worst dad ever.

DONNY
C'mon, I did a pretty decent job.

TODD
Really? You wanna check in on the progress of your pretty decent job?

Todd grabs TEN SYRINGES from the desk, SHOWS them to Donny!

DONNY
...Oh, no. You're a junkie?

TODD
It's insulin. I'm diabetic! Cause you used to let me eat cake for breakfast. Just one of the great souvenirs of childhood obesity. That, and no self-esteem. You destroyed my metabolism, man. It took me 6 years to lose all that weight. I only eat 1000 calories a day now. That's like half a sandwich and 7 carrots!

DONNY
You do look amazing though...

TODD
Yeah, I have to work out like Madonna! Oh, and how bout these?
(pulls a CONTACT LENS from his eye)
These are the thickest contacts they make. I'm practically blind cause you used to tell me that TV was better *really* close up!

DONNY
A lot of people have contacts.

TODD
Oh, well, do a lotta people have --

Todd PULLS his shirt off and turns to reveal a HUGE TATTOO OF EDDIE VEDDER covering his entire back.

TODD (CONT'D)
Do a lotta people have a 17 inch Eddie Vedder tattoo on their back?!

DONNY
YOU BEGGED ME FOR THAT THING!

TODD
I WAS THIRTEEN! YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO SAY NO! --

Stacey enters with towels -- finds Todd and Donny (both SHIRTLESS) in each other's faces, and BREATHING HEAVY.

STACEY
...Is everything okay?

TODD
Awesome, just showing Donny my ink.

STACEY
Ugh, I hate that thing. Wait, then why's his shirt off?

Donny turns to reveal a huge, faded TATTOO OF SPRINGSTEEN.

DONNY
The Boss.

STACEY
Wow. You guys are so alike.
(looks at them sideways)
You even kinda look alike. Has anyone ever told you that?

TODD
No.

DONNY
All the time.

TODD
A few people have...remarked that.

STACEY
...Right. Well, here you go.

She hands Donny the towels, a little suspicious.

DONNY
Thanks, Stace. You're amazing.

STACEY
Aww. Well, we're so glad you're here. Now, c'mon, let's party!

She kisses Todd, skips out. Donny watches her go, then --

DONNY
How'd you get a girl that hot? Seriously, is this a citizenship thing? I didn't hear an accent.

TODD
Don, my life's great for the first time ever, okay? And the fact that I could put anything together - between near constant trips to therapy - is remarkable. But, I'd really like to marry Stacey before she realizes I'm from a family of circus freaks and that she could do way better. So, what's your plan? You gonna go out there and ruin my life, or are you gonna help me for the first time ever? Lemme know, cause maybe I could still get a refund on the honeymoon.

DONNY
(HURT, pulls on a shirt)
Wow. Really not holding back. I've changed, *Todd*. You'll see.

He starts for the door -- Todd GRABS his arm.

TODD
Whoa, changed guy. Get ready to change again. You're not wearing a t-shirt. This is a cocktail party, not a Quiznos. Put on a tie.

DONNY
First off, you can't tell me what to do. I'm the dad. And second, I've literally never worn a tie. It's a 39 year streak.

TODD
(GRABS Donny by the shirt)
PUT ON A TIE AND COMB YOUR HAIR!

DONNY
I'LL NEVER SELLOUT!

They WRESTLE clumsily -- then SEPARATE. Todd SIGHS DEEPLY.

TODD
A hundred bucks.

LATER

He TIES Donny's tie ANGRILY (like a dad tying his son's tie).

TODD
How are you still alive? You have the skills of a 12 year old.

Todd CINCHES it tight -- Donny PULLS at it -- they WRESTLE for control of the tie!

DONNY
It's too tight!

TODD
It's supposed to be tight!

DONNY
I CAN'T BREATHE!

TODD
GOOD!

INT. TODD AND STACEY'S LIVING ROOM - LATER

A JAZZ TRIO PLAYS SOFTLY. A YUPPIE COCKTAIL PARTY OF 30.

Todd talks to his boss, BILL SCOTT (50), while keeping a CLOSE EYE on -- REVEAL Donny (hair PARTED hard, ill-fitting SUIT/TIE) alone in the corner <u>LIKE A KID AT A GROWN-UP PARTY</u>.

TODD
So, Bill, I was thinking that if we hedged our oil position by...by...

Todd SEES Donny take a STEP toward the group -- Todd GLARES him back into his corner -- Donny pouts, RETREATS.

TODD (CONT'D)
...by, um - If we short the Euro --

BILL SCOTT
Todd, take a night off, okay? This weekend I'm not your boss.
(to Stacey)
You're marrying a real workaholic.

STACEY
(smiles suggestively)
Isn't that what you want in a *partner,* though?

BILL SCOTT
(laughs)
She's tough. Alright, listen, I haven't made my final decision yet, but I will tell you, I love that you're getting married. A guy with a stable family's much less likely to steal a couple mil, change his name and move to Argentina, you know? I gotta know I can trust my partner.

TODD
Well...family's so important to me.

Donny takes another STEP toward them -- Todd GLARES him back.

BILL SCOTT
Well, then, assuming Stacey shows up on Sunday, I'd say it's looking pretty good for you.

Bill WINKS, TOASTS Todd -- Stacey SMILES AT TODD EXCITEDLY. Then, Helen spots Donny, motions him over to the group.

HELEN HAYWARD
Donny, come say hi to everyone.

Donny SMILES and comes over -- Todd SWIGS his champagne hard.

TODD
Uh, Donny, this is my *boss*, Bill Scott. Bill, this is Donny.

DONNY
Whaazzzzuuuuuuuuuuuuuup!

A LONG pregnant beat...Todd thinks he's dead...then --

BILL SCOTT
Is that back? I've been dying for that to come back. Whaaazzzzuuup!

CHAD
Whaaaazzzzzuuuup!

JON HAYWARD
(laughs)
Whaaaaazzzuuup!

BILL SCOTT/DONNY/CHAD/JON HAYWARD
Whaaaaazzzuuuup!

Todd rolls his eyes, DOWNS his champagne, then --

TODD
Whaaaazzzzuuuuuup!

They look at him, AWKWARD -- he was too LATE, and BAD at it.

LATER

Now Donny's surrounded by ALL 30 GUESTS. They're RAPT.

DONNY
So I see the train coming, and I just - I don't know, something takes over, right? I jump off the platform - BAM! Both my legs break.
(they all gasp)
In half.
(off another gasp)
And...also my sternum and neck.

BILL SCOTT
Jesus.

DONNY
Yeah. But, I'm so hopped up on adrenaline, I feel like Jiminy Christmas.

Todd looks around, amazed that they're all buying this.

DONNY (CONT'D)
(GRABS Todd)
So I tackle him! We roll outta the way, *just* as the train goes by. Inches. I mean, inches.
(MORE)

DONNY (CONT'D)
It was some real Wesley Snipes shit. But that's life, right? Inches.

GUEST
Unbelievable.

BILL SCOTT
Todd, what were you thinking?

TODD
I really don't know, Bill.

WOMAN 1
I mean, why wouldn't you just buy another burrito?

WOMAN 2
The one you dropped woulda been all disgusting anyway.

TODD
(so annoyed)
Yeah, not my best decision, okay?

BILL SCOTT
(slaps Donny's back)
Wow. What're you drinking, Donny?

LATER

Everyone HOLDS UP their drinks as Donny TOASTS the couple.

DONNY
(making it up as he goes)
Long may you run...into the heavens ...above. Where eagles soar on beds. Made of children's dreams.

BEAT...everyone LIFTS their glasses to their lips, then --

DONNY (CONT'D)
But, don't forget, the way you look...tonight. At each other...in this here golden...light.
(beat, they lift their drinks...then --)
That's love...at first sight.
Thank you.

HELEN HAYWARD
Beautiful.

Everyone DRINKS, Todd ROLLS his eyes.

LATER

Now the BAND PLAYS FAST. Donny DANCES with Helen and Stacey, the HIT OF THE PARTY! Donny DIPS Helen playfully -- she BLUSHES, LOVING IT. Stacey gives a BIG THUMBS UP to --

Todd, who drinks and STEWS in the corner. He gives her an annoyed THUMBS UP back, just as Bill DANCES by.

BILL SCOTT
Donny's classic, man!

Todd DANCES AWKWARDLY after Bill to try to talk to him.

TODD
Yeah. So, Bill, thanks again for considering me. It's an honor to --

BILL SCOTT
Todd, stop kissing my ass, okay? I'm trying to get my party on!

Todd STOPS dancing, then watches Bill dance to Donny -- they HI-FIVE! Todd grabs a passing champagne, DOWNS IT.

LATER

Donny shows his BOOK to Jon, Chad, Bill and some GUYS.

BILL SCOTT
Man, I woulda killed to bang my 8th grade teacher. Mrs. Cohn. Biology. I used to dream about dissecting her with my penis. True story. It's weird what's going on upstairs when you hit puberty.

GUY
I know. I stole the librarian's glasses to wear them *while* I masturbated. What's that about?

Todd's SO EMBARRASSED by the conversation. He looks at Jon and is about to apologize to him, when --

JON HAYWARD
Ms. Lee. She had the most perfect ...ass. We all wanted her, but we didn't think it was really possible.

BILL SCOTT
(toasts Donny)
Here's to actually pulling it off.
(they drink, then to Todd)
I can't believe Donny Levine pushed you outta the way of a train. Wild.

TODD
Yeah, it's pretty great.

Mia LEANS IN from a nearby conversation --

MIA
I gave my 8th grade gym teacher a hand job in his mini-van.

Everyone looks at her, HORRIFIED.

LATER

Jon toasts Stacey, CHOKED UP.

JON HAYWARD
And the doctor said that had the umbilical cord been just a little lower, Stacey woulda never made it into this world. But, that's life, right? Inches. Inches. You know what I'm talking about, Don.

He nods at Donny -- Donny HOLDS UP his glass, TAPS his heart.

JON HAYWARD (CONT'D)
And now I have to give my baby girl away to the new man in her life.

Todd HOLDS UP his glass toward Jon -- Jon IGNORES HIM.

JON HAYWARD (CONT'D)
Stace, of all the things I've ever been, Daddy's by far the best. And anyone who's ever been Daddy, knows exactly what I mean.

Donny's <u>TOUCHED</u>. He self-consciously <u>WIPES HIS EYES</u>.

STACEY
I love you, Daddy!

Donny watches Jon and Stacey HUG. Then Donny holds up a PEACE TOAST to Todd, WARMLY -- Todd SHAKES HIS HEAD, SO COLD.

STACEY (CONT'D)
I just had the best idea! Donny, you can be Todd's best man! There isn't anyone standing up with him.

TODD
...Ooh, really though?

STACEY
I mean, he's your best friend. And he saved your life.

TODD
Oh yeah, that's right. Have we told that story yet tonight?
(PATS Donny's back hard)
Hey, she's right, man. I totally owe you. *Please*, be my best man.

DONNY
Wow. All I can say is yes.

TODD
Yay! It's settled then.
(downs another Champagne)
This is the BEST NIGHT OF MY LIFE!

STACEY
Honey...maybe you should chill on the champagne.

TODD
What? C'mon, it's a celebration. "*I wanna celebrate and have a good time, WOO-HOO!*"

Todd walks off. Stacey looks at Donny, confused.

DONNY
He always gets anxious at parties. He pissed himself at every one of his birthdays til he was 15.
(beat, covers)
I mean, he told me he did. We're super close. I'll go talk to him.

KITCHEN - LATER

Donny finds Todd in the kitchen, BINGE EATING.

DONNY
Whoa, that's more than a thousand calories. What's wrong, man?

TODD
Seriously? You're ruining my life out there!

DONNY
Are we at the same party? They're literally toasting to me.

TODD
They'd love me too if I got to tell everyone I broke my neck pushing someone outta the way of a train! You think they'd still be into you if they knew how much of a loser you are? Maybe I'll tell them the one about when you fell asleep driving me to school!

DONNY
We didn't even get in an accident!

TODD
I HATE YOU!

He THROWS a balled up paper towel at the trash -- MISSES!

DONNY
I feel like I'm coming through for you right now and all you're doing is hitting me with negativity.
(balls up a paper towel)
And by the way, when you do the whole 'shoot a basket to make a point' thing, it works better if you MAKE IT!

Donny SHOOTS -- he MISSES too.

TODD
You're such an idiot.

Todd picks up both "balls", TOSSES them toward the trash -- Donny swoops in and BLOCKS THEM HARD! They LOCK EYES...

BACK IN THE LIVING ROOM - SAME

Stacey talks with her GIRLFRIENDS.

STACEY
I know Todd's not like the guys I used to date, but, most bad boys end up living in their parents' basements, you know?

GIRLFRIEND 1
Who cares about sexy anyway? When we're 50, we're all gonna be fat.

GIRLFRIEND 2
But at least you won't be single. Or poor.

STACEY
(off their giggles)
You guys are bad. It's just nice to be with a grown-up for once.

SMASH CUT TO:

BACK IN THE KITCHEN - LATER

Now Todd and Donny are playing a VERY PHYSICAL GAME OF ONE-ON-ONE with the balled up paper towel and trash can. Todd BACKS Donny down in the "post" -- they BANG HARD!

TODD
You - can't - handle me down low.

DONNY
(ELBOWS Todd's kidney)
This is my paint!

TODD
Oh, are we playing old guy rules?

DONNY
What, you wanna call your mommy?

Todd FAKES -- Donny BITES -- Todd goes under and SLAMS it in!

TODD
Yeah! Call my mom! Tell her you just got raped again!

Donny BALLS UP another paper towel and nods competitively as he walks to the "top of the key".

DONNY
I'm gonna work you like a job!

TODD
(gets in defensive stance)
Have you ever even had a job?

DONNY
I'VE HAD HUNDREDS OF JOBS!

Donny RUNS at him --

OUT IN THE LIVING ROOM - LATER

Back on Stacey and her friends.

GIRLFRIEND 2
You're so lucky, Stace. I'm at the point where if the guy doesn't get paid by the hour, I'm poking holes in the condom. Here's to 30! Yay!

They laugh -- but are interrupted by a CRASH OFF-SCREEN!

STACEY
Ugh, these caterers are the worst. I'll be right back.

KITCHEN - LATER

Stacey enters just as Todd ZEALOUSLY BLOCKS Donny's shot -- his MOMENTUM sends him into a cabinet HARD! Todd grabs the "ball", and SLAMS it home!

TODD
YEAH!

STACEY
Uh...honey?

TODD
(barely glances at her)
Be out in a sec, Stace.

STACEY
But...

TODD
It's all tied up right now, okay?

STACEY
...What's all tied up?

TODD
WE'RE ALL TIED UP!

She throws up her hands, pissed, and walks out. Instantly, Donny DRIVES right -- Todd CHECKS him HARD into the wall!

DONNY
Offensive foul!

TODD
You’re on offense!

DONNY
(to no one)
C’mon, ref, let em play!

TODD
THAT DOESN’T MAKE SENSE!

QUICK JUMP CUTS:

-- Donny CHECKS Todd hard, SPINS, SLAMS it home, then does a RIDICULOUS TOUCHDOWN DANCE!

-- Todd RUNS THROUGH Donny, SHOOTS it in, then does a MOCKING TOUCHDOWN DANCE in Donny’s face!

-- Donny DUNKS! Then Todd DUNKS! IT’S VERY PHYSICAL NOW!

-- Donny DRIVES -- Todd PUSHES him into a WATER COOLER -- the JUG FLIES OFF -- SHATTERS a stack of PLATES -- then SPRAYS water all over! They DIVE for the “ball”!

Todd ELBOWS Donny in the face HARD -- Donny’s nose EXPLODES WITH BLOOD -- Todd grabs the “ball” and SLAMS it home! Todd pops up and DANCES/YELLS in Donny’s BLOODY FACE!

TODD
THAT’S GAME! YEAH! What a surprise! Donny Levine failed at something! WOW! YOU’RE A LOSER!

Todd (wet, sweating, out of breath) looks up -- REVEAL Stacey, Helen, Jon, Bill, others, APPALLED. Stacey GLARES at Todd. Helen kneels down and helps Donny up, babying him.

HELEN HAYWARD
Ooh, are you okay, honey?

DONNY
(milking it)
I thought we were just playing... and then he elbowed me in the face.

STACEY
(to Todd)
What’s wrong with you?

INT. DONNY'S ROOM - LATER (THE PARTY'S OVER)

Todd enters to find Helen CRADLING Donny as Stacey holds ICE to his face. Stacey GLARES at Todd, then starts out -- as she PASSES him, Todd tries to KISS her -- she just BLOWS BY.

HELEN HAYWARD
Okay, then, I'll let you boys talk. Just keep the ice on it, honey, and you'll be fine.

DONNY
Thanks, Helen. You're the best.

Helen BRUSHES Donny's hair back, then KISSES his cheek, then LOOKS into his eyes for WAY TOO LONG (is she gonna KISS HIM?)...finally, she snaps out of it, BLUSHES, hurries out.

TODD
Uh...what the hell was that?

DONNY
What?

TODD
Hey, do me a favor and try not to have sex with my mother-in-law at my wedding, okay? Stacey might be a little upset if her parents get divorced.

DONNY
It's not my fault, guy. Older women can't resist me, okay? It's the curse of the cougars. You know, I invented cougars. I shoulda copyrighted that shit. I woulda made millions.

Todd rolls his eyes, then looks around -- the ROOM'S A MESS.

TODD
And how's this place already such a mess? You've been here five hours. If you're gonna stay under my roof, you're gonna keep your room clean.

DONNY
(like an insolent teen)
God! I'll do it tomorrow.

Donny pulls off the ice -- REVEAL A BLACK EYE -- Todd reacts.

TODD
So...are you okay?

DONNY
What d'you care?

TODD
You weren't exactly playing at half speed yourself. But, I guess, maybe I got a little carried away.

DONNY
Hey, it's a big day when you beat your dad at something for the first time.

TODD
You're not my dad, Don.

DONNY
You know, you're a 25 year old millionaire with a hot wife. I know I don't deserve *all* the credit, but I feel like I get some. I taught you shit.

TODD
Oh yeah, like what? I don't even know how to ride a bike. You know how embarrassing that is?

DONNY
Well, I didn't know you wanted to learn that. I'll take you out right now.

TODD
Yeah, no thanks.

DONNY
(thinks for awhile...)
I taught you to swim!

QUICK FLASHBACK:

-- YOUNG DONNY holds an ICE CREAM out of reach of 5 YEAR OLD TODD (CHUBBY), LEADING him toward a POOL. At the edge, he THROWS the ICE CREAM into the pool -- Todd JUMPS in after it!

BACK TO PRESENT:

TODD
I almost drowned!

DONNY
But you didn't! And you became a great swimmer. You coulda made your high school team if you were a little more...aerodynamic.
(off Todd's glare)
Jesus, fine, I get it. You hate me. Whatever.
(shakes his head)
You wanna know why I'm really here?

TODD
Yes. Please.

DONNY
(thinks)
Well...I...I don't know how to tell you this, but...your mom's sick. They don't know how long she's got and...I told her you'd come visit her at the prison. I shoulda asked before I got her hopes up, but I stupidly thought you'd wanna see her one last time, just in case...

TODD
(long beat, affected)
Really?

DONNY
Yeah. Saturday's the last time she can have visitors before her big surgery on Sunday.

TODD
(incredulous/annoyed)
So, you want me to go see my dying mother in prison - for the first time in 20 years - the day before my wedding?

DONNY
Hey, I just thought you should know. Maybe part of me hoped we could go together. I get it though. You've got a better family now.
(applies the ice)
Could you please just turn off the light on your way out? My eye hurts. And so does my nose.

Todd hesitates, then FLICKS OFF the light and walks out.

INT. TODD'S BEDROOM - LATER

Todd sits at the end of the bed, staring at an OLD PHOTO: 4 YEAR OLD TODD and YOUNG DONNY smile with Mary McGarricle (who's behind a GLASS PRISON PARTITION), an ODD family photo.

Stacey comes to the doorway -- Todd hides the picture.

STACEY
What's going on with you, Todd? You really embarrassed us tonight.

TODD
Nothing. I'm sorry. I'm --
(looks at her)
Doesn't part of you just wanna run away from all these people and get married on a tiny beach somewhere? Maybe never come back? I could learn to bartend, you could waitress at the same place... doesn't that sound great?

STACEY
...That sounds terrible. I don't wanna be a waitress. I want this. A perfect wedding, a perfect life together. Like my parents have.

TODD
No, I know. Me too. I'm kidding.
(changes the subject)
So...and how bout that Chad? He could be on the Real World/Road Rules Challenge.
(she rolls her eyes)
Your friends are all really good looking. Do you have a thing where you won't hang out with anyone under 5'10"? How'd I slip through?

STACEY
Aww, is that what all this is? You're jealous of Chad?

TODD
No, I was just saying, I wish I had hair that never moved. Do you know what kinda product he uses?

She smiles, then STRADDLES him, starts KISSING his neck.

TODD (CONT'D)
And just outta curiosity, how does a 30 year old guy with an 18 year old girlfriend, and no discernible income, coach anyone on how to live their life?

STACEY
Todd, you and I are getting *married* in 2 days. Chad's like my brother. If I wanted to have sex with him, I could've. A million times.

TODD
That's not really how a brother works.

STACEY
(laughs)
Ooh, you're cute when you're jealous...

She UNBUTTONS HIS PANTS -- his EYES ROLL BACK.

TODD
I am? Then, Chad's awesome. I bet he has everything Ed Hardy makes.

STACEY
(hands down his pants now)
Ooh, yeah...
(baby voice)
Toddy, will you please stop acting weird and start getting excited for our big perfect wedding? *Please?*

TODD
(barely able to talk now)
Oh - Oh yeah...whatever you say...

INT. DONNY'S ROOM - LATER

Donny strums his DOUBLE-NECK acoustic guitar, CHOKING UP.

DONNY (SINGING)
When your son tells you you're a loser, it really hurts your feelings, but I don't care at all, cause I know I'm awesome --

He THROWS the guitar aside, near TEARS. He SWIGS a beer hard, then opens his Filofax and dials a number on his cell.

PHONE (V.O.)
Hey, you've reached Montel Williams, you know the drill.

DONNY (ON THE PHONE)
Hey, brotha. Donny Levine. Call me right away. I've got the new angle for my story. You'll love it. It's what you always asked me for.

He HANGS UP, then leans back with a HEAVY HEART...

INT. DONNY'S BATHROOM - NEXT MORNING

Donny sleepily pulls a VERY FLAT TOOTHPASTE from his garbage bag. He SEARCHES for his toothbrush -- no luck. He tries to SQUEEZE the paste onto his finger -- NOTHING LEFT.

EXT./INT. TODD'S BATHROOM - LATER

Donny walks toward Todd's bathroom.

DONNY
Yo, can I borrow some toothpaste, man? And a tooth brush? And do you have any Axe body spray --

He walks in AS Todd (SWIM TRUNKS) gets out of the shower -- Todd SHRIEKS like a girl -- Donny turns away!

DONNY (CONT'D)
Whoa! Sorry. I've already seen your guy, though. I changed your diapers. You were a real shitter.
(turns back around)
Wait, why are you wearing shorts? Do you shower in clothes?

TODD
I have body image issues!

DONNY
...You're a dude. Why do you care?

TODD
Oh, you know, I wonder why --

QUICK SERIES OF FLASHBACKS:

-- SIDEWALK. 8 YEAR OLD TODD puts his HANDPRINTS in WET CEMENT. 22 YEAR OLD DONNY approaches with a stick.

22 YEAR OLD DONNY
I'll write your name for you.

Donny writes in the cement -- REVEAL: "THE FAT KID".

-- 24 YEAR OLD DONNY and FRIENDS (including 28 YEAR OLD ZIERING) drink/fish on a boat by the Jersey Shore.

24 YEAR OLD DONNY
Hey, Chunk, do the Truffle Shuffle for us. C'mon, one time. *I'll give you a beer...*

10 YEAR OLD TODD (CHUBBY) pulls up his shirt, does Chunk's DANCE from "Goonies". Everyone LAUGHS!

28 YEAR OLD ZIERING
Baby Ruuuuuuuth!

-- 15 YEAR OLD TODD talks nervously to a 15 YEAR OLD GIRL and her FRIENDS. SUDDENLY Young Donny runs up and DE-PANTSES TODD! The GIRLS GIGGLE as Donny LAUGHS and HI-FIVES Ziering!

BACK TO PRESENT, IN TODD'S BATHROOM:

Donny REACTS to the flashbacks, UPSET with himself.

DONNY
...Wow. I was just...messing with you. I didn't realize it would have legit long term effects.

TODD
I'm fine. I actually liked being called Roseanne for the first 15 years of my life. Here --
(gives him toothbrush/ toothpaste)
I don't have Axe body spray cause I'm not a douchebag. Go get ready. We gotta meet everyone at the church for the rehearsal cause you're the best man, remember? Yay!

DONNY
(beat, sincere)
Yeah, well, I'm...sorry about all that, Han.

TODD
MY NAME IS TODD!

INT. TODD'S MERCEDES - LATER

Todd drives, Donny's in shotgun. They stare ahead, SILENT. The stereo PLAYS "Your Body Is A Wonderland"...Donny CRINGES.

DONNY
...What is this?

TODD
John Mayer.

DONNY
...It sounds like what Phil Collins would put on before he makes love to Richard Marx.

TODD
Yeah, well, he's sold about 30 million records, so, you don't know what you're talking about.

DONNY
God, sometimes I can't believe you came outta my penis. I've got two words for you: Spring. Steen. Listen to him.

TODD
I've heard him.

DONNY
No, you haven't. Cause if you had, we'd be listening to him right now. Has anyone ever really sat you down and *played* you The Boss?

TODD
No.
(Donny hands Todd a TAPE)
...Do you just carry that around with you all the time?

DONNY
You never know when you're gonna have to save lives.

Todd takes the tape and kinda BANGS it against his stereo.

TODD
Oh, wait, that's right, I left my tape player in 1987. Can I borrow your time machine?
(MORE)

TODD (cont'd)
(Donny rolls his eyes)
I'll pick you up another pair of those jeans.

DONNY
(SNATCHES the tape back)
Hilarious.

CUT TO:

A HUGE, VERY BLOODY CRUCIFIX, AS AN ORGAN DRONES OMINOUSLY.

INT. MAGNIFICENT CHURCH - LATER

Todd ANXIOUSLY stares up at the gruesome CRUCIFIX above the altar, as an ANGRY PRIEST (50, angry) prepares to address the WEDDING PARTY (who stand in rigid wedding formation, SILENT). Donny leans in to Todd's ear and whispers (re: crucifix).

DONNY
That's one dead hippie.
(Todd doesn't respond)
He looks like Duane Allman. After his motorcycle accident.
(Todd SHUSHES him)
But, are these people serious with this thing? It's disgusting --

ANGRY PRIEST
(CLEARS his throat)
Todd and Stacey are making a commitment to each other for all eternity. It's the single most important decision of their lives --

Todd EXHALES LOUDLY -- everyone looks at him.

TODD
Sorry.

Donny REGISTERS Todd's anxiety as the Priest continues.

ANGRY PRIEST
So, is it too much to ask that you act respectfully on Sunday? Hey, I get it, it's Manhattan out there. Everyone's having sex and lattes, God's a big joke and I'm an idiot for not having HBO. But while you're in my church, you will respect Jesus.
(Todd SWALLOWS hard)
(MORE)

ANGRY PRIEST (cont'd)
No giggling, no gum chewing, and no phones. You can text your coke dealer when you get home, okay? And when the ceremony's over, no clapping.

DONNY
Is this a funeral or a funeral?

ANGRY PRIEST
Best man, is that a real question?

DONNY
No, I was just kidding. You know, cause you're so serious. I just - Happy occasion, right?

The Priest just continues, annoyed.

ANGRY PRIEST
Okay, so, on Sunday, the choir will begin, you'll come down the aisle, pause at the altar, genuflect, then move to where you're standing right now. Everyone got that?

Donny raises his hand -- the Priest looks at him, annoyed.

DONNY
Sorry, just wanna be clear, though. So, by genuflect, you mean 'think about how great it is that they're getting married', right?

ANGRY PRIEST
No...by *genuflect,* I mean bow to one knee and make the signal of the cross.

DONNY
Right. Got it. So, should Todd and I do that too, though?

ANGRY PRIEST
What do you mean?

TODD
Wait, Don --

DONNY
Cause we're Jewish.

Everyone's STUNNED -- Donny doesn't know why.

DONNY (CONT'D)
I mean, I don't care. I'm a team player on this thing.

Everyone LOOKS at Todd -- he LAUGHS NERVOUSLY.

TODD
Donny, I'm not Jewish. I'm Catholic, remember?

DONNY
What?
(tries to recover)
Oh, yeah...right. I always get those two mixed up.

TODD
Okay, thanks Father. So, we'll just catch you on Sunday, then?

ANGRY PRIEST
(suspicious)
You know, I can't marry you in my church if you haven't been baptized.

TODD
No worries.

ANGRY PRIEST
No worries, you've been baptized?

STACEY
Yes, of course he has. He's Catholic, Father. Right, Todd?

TODD
Totally. Almost too Catholic. ...Not that that's possible.

ANGRY PRIEST
When was your last communion?

TODD
A couple...times ago.

ANGRY PRIEST
What *is* communion?

TODD
You know.

ANGRY PRIEST
Yes, I do know.

TODD
It's...like a dance ritual...in the backyard...of God. In God's backyard.
(beat)
Metaphorically.
(beat)
It's open to interpretation.

Off the Angry Priest's ANGRY LOOK --

EXT. CHURCH - LATER

Donny, Chad, and the parents stand to the side as Stacey and Todd ARGUE. She's PISSED, he STAMMERS.

TODD
I just - You told me how important it was to your family that you married Catholic, so I just kinda went with it.

STACEY
You mean you lied.

TODD
Yes...but out of love. It was a love lie. Like faking an orgasm.

Jon GLARES at him.

STACEY
We've got 300 people coming here the day after tomorrow, Todd.

TODD
Well, maybe we could just do it somewhere else.

STACEY
This is the number one church in Manhattan!

TODD
...What does that even mean?

STACEY
You'll just have to convert. He can baptize you right before the ceremony. They did it at my cousin Jodie's wedding.

TODD
Really? But...

STACEY
What? You're willing to lie about being Catholic but you're not willing to actually convert?

TODD
No, I guess - It's just kind of a major decision, you know...
(looks up at the church, weighs the cons)
I mean there's the whole abstinence education thing which is just really irresponsible. And don't they not let dudes be gay? That's just so...*stupid*. And, *pro-life?*

STACEY
Do you really think now's the time to make a political stand!?

Todd hesitates -- Donny comes to his defense.

DONNY
He's got a point about the gay shit though. I mean, I'm straight, but those little guys should be allowed to do their thing.

STACEY
(GLARES at Donny, then)
Well, Todd, if you wanna marry me on Sunday, you're converting.
(gets in a taxi)
You're ruining our wedding. C'mon Chad, let's go to our facials.

CHAD
(glares at Todd)
You know how many guys would *literally* kill to marry Stacey, bro?

TODD
I think you mean figuratively...

Chad FAKES a lunge -- Todd FLINCHES! Chad gets in the cab. Stacey SLAMS the door! The taxi goes. Jon turns to Todd.

JON HAYWARD
I paid a lot of money for this weekend, guy. We're not all millionaires.

He STORMS off. Todd goes after him. Helen stays with Donny.

HELEN HAYWARD
Well...I love Jewish guys.

Donny's weirded out -- she GRABS his ass -- he JUMPS away!

DONNY
Whoa, Helen.

HELEN HAYWARD
Oh, c'mon. Prancing around all day in those tight jeans - you're practically asking for it!

Donny's taken aback -- Todd returns, beaten -- he SENSES the WEIRDNESS between Helen and Donny -- then Helen hurries away. Donny turns to Todd -- Todd puts up a hand ("Not a word.").

DONNY
I'm sorry man, but you didn't give me a handbook with all the things you're lying about, you know? And who lies about being Jewish? You know how many people are trying to get into this thing of ours?
(Todd rolls his eyes)
Even just from a business standpoint it doesn't make a lot of sense. You're leaving a ton of clients on the table.

TODD
(looks at the HUGE CHURCH)
God, am I really gonna be Catholic?

DONNY
Well, it seems to be making that priest pretty happy.

TODD
Yeah, and he's like the most Catholic you can be. You'd think being that close to God would put you in a better mood.

DONNY
Well, in his defense, he hasn't had sex in fifty years.
(Todd suppresses a smile)
Can you imagine the orgasm built up in his pants? It would be just like a beam of pure energy. And blood.

TODD
(reluctantly laughs)
Or just dust. Like a dry cough.

DONNY
Yeah, it could go either way. Nothing, or like the end of Caddyshack.

THEY LAUGH TOGETHER, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A DECADE.

TODD
Yeah, this is ridiculous. I'm not converting. No way. No way.

INT. TUX SHOP - LATER

A TAILOR fits Donny's TUX as Todd (tux) talks to Stacey on the phone. He's SO WHIPPED. Donny watches, disappointed.

TODD (ON THE PHONE)
Stace - I - I'm sorry, but, can we just discuss this? ...Yeah, I guess it *could* be confusing to our kids if I was the only Jew in the house. *Of course* I still want kids - No, I wasn't lying about that too - No, I'm not lying about anything else -
(deflates)
Okay, I get it, I'll convert, okay? I'll convert. ...Alright, I love --

The line goes dead. Todd hangs up, a bit FREAKED.

DONNY
You mighta been too tough on her.

TODD
She's not really wrong on this, Don. I lied. Besides, what am I supposed to do? Everything's falling apart. Surprisingly, since about the time you showed up.

DONNY
Hey, I don't care if you're Jewish or not. I mean, the *Holocaust*, but whatever. I just - I get a not so great vibe off her, okay? And my vibes are always right. I mean, how well do we really know Stacey?

TODD
Uh, *you* don't know her at all.

DONNY
Right. It just - It seems like you do whatever she wants.

TODD
Yeah, I love her. See, in an adult relationship, you make sacrifices for each other. It's not always about *you*.

DONNY
Okay. You're right. Sorry.

TODD
(to the Tailor, agitated)
Are we almost done?

TAILOR
Yes, sir. Almost.
(to Donny, re: his pants)
What do you think?

DONNY
Let's go a little tighter.
(long beat, then)
So, T...have you thought any more about going out to see your mom tomorrow? I'd love a wingman.

TODD
God, I don't know.
(thinks back)
I barely remember her. What was I, like, 4 the last time you took me out there? Why'd we stop going?

DONNY
My guidance counselor thought that having a long distance relationship with an inmate was affecting my grades. And my ability to have normal relationships.

TODD
So, what's your relationship like now? Are you cool with her raping you and everything?

DONNY
Yeah, it's cool.
(off the Tailor's LOOK)
Don't worry, she was really hot.
(to Tailor re: pants)
C'mon, man, don't be shy.

TODD
I can't believe she's been in jail this *whole* time. Can you imagine? It can't be as bad as men's prison, though, if you know what I mean...

DONNY
(SO SCARED OF PRISON)
Yes, I know exactly what you mean.

TODD
Well, I don't know. Why don't you just go with Ziering or something?

DONNY
We had a falling out.

TODD
(surprised)
You're not friends with Ziering anymore? What happened?

DONNY
Nothing specific. I don't think either of us can really put our finger on it. Whatever, I don't care.

TODD
Really? You guys were so close. He lived with us for like 12 years.

DONNY
I know. He is pretty awesome.

TODD
Well, you should just be a grown-up, and go apologize. Be the bigger man.

DONNY
It's complicated. I don't wanna make the first move, and... You know, he hates you too. He was like your uncle, and you just left and never called. For *8 years*. That rubs people the wrong way.

TODD
I know...
(beat, thinks...)
You know what? Fine, I'll go to the prison with you tomorrow.

DONNY
Really? Wow.

TODD
It's the right thing to do. But you gotta do me a favor. Can you just behave the rest of the weekend? You know, blend in, don't sleep with Stacey's mom, that sorta thing.

DONNY
She's pretty hot, but, okay. Yes. Done. Your mom'll be so happy.

TAILOR
(to Donny)
...Are you sure you want these so tight in the seat?

TODD
(looks at Donny's pants)
Whoa, those are way too tight. It's a tux, not a wet-suit.

DONNY
I could go even tighter.

TODD
Don, I can literally see the rim of your penis.

DONNY
Barely.

A shot of Donny's CROTCH -- LIKE A PENIS IN SHRINK-WRAP.

DONNY (CONT'D)
Tell me where it says showing a little peen doesn't go a long way?

TODD
You can't show that much peen, Don.

DONNY
I can show as much peen as gets the job done!

TODD
What happened to blending in?

DONNY
Fine, take 'em out a little. But you're letting the terrorists win.

The Tailor looks at them ODDLY, then RELEASES the seat a bit.

TAILOR
Okay, let's see you two.

Todd and Donny look in the mirror, side by side in WEDDING TUXES...Donny puts his ARM AROUND Todd -- Todd SHAKES it off.

TODD
C'mon. We're gonna get Stacey her favorite cupcakes and she's gonna forget all about everything.

EXT. MAGNOLIA BAKERY - LATER

Todd and Donny wait in a <u>REALLY</u> LONG LINE.

DONNY
This line is for cupcakes? What're they made of, blowjobs?

Some PATRONS look at Donny oddly. Todd waves apologetically.

TODD
They're just really good cupcakes.

DONNY
God, I hate Manhattan.
(notices Todd is ANXIOUS)
...Hey, I don't wanna talk outta turn, but for a guy that's supposed to be having the happiest weekend of his life, you're pretty wound up. I mean, when I was your age, I didn't have a care in the world.

TODD
Yeah, I remember.

DONNY
Right. So, do you wanna...talk?

TODD
With you? I'm fine.

DONNY
You know, you can put on as many fancy Men's Wearhouse suits as you want, but I still know you better than anyone else. My vibes can sense when something's wrong. C'mon, I can do this. The old father/son talk. Hit me with it. One time.

TODD
(beat, relents a bit)
I'm just...stressed out, I guess.

DONNY
YES! I knew something was wrong! Who's the shitty dad, now!? YEAH!
(off Todd/everyone's LOOK)
Sorry.

Todd can't help but smile a bit (DONNY'S LIKE A CHILD).

TODD
I'm fine. It's normal. I just kinda got a lot going on right now, okay? Really. Nothing's wrong.

Donny eyes Todd, UNCONVINCED. Beat.

DONNY
Hey, you know what I do when I've got too much going on upstairs? I go and just get annihilated. Just black out drunk.

TODD
That's your advice? To get drunk?

DONNY
Sometimes if you stop thinking, answers come to you. You've always been way too responsible.

INT. MAGNOLIA BAKERY - CONTINUOUS

They walk in.

TODD
I can't even remember the last time I got drunk.

DONNY
What about your bachelor party?

TODD
I didn't have one. I hate strippers. I always make up really depressing back stories for them in my head.

DONNY
God, we're different. Well, you gotta let me throw you a bachelor party. It's bad luck not to have one.

They're at the counter now. Todd orders.

TODD
We'll take a dozen red velvets.
(to Donny)
I don't think so, Don.

DONNY
Please, c'mon, I missed a lot of stuff in your life. When you took your first step, I was at a sleep-over. Your first day of school - I also had school. A different school. Had it been the same school, I coulda worked it out, but - no excuses - I wasn't there for you enough. I missed your prom --

TODD
I didn't go to prom.

DONNY
Well...then I missed that bullshit conversation where you tell the kid "Who cares that no one wants to go to prom with you, you'll show them all when you're rich and famous." I missed a lot of big moments in your life, but here's a chance for me to be there for one.

MAGNOLIA CLERK
That'll be 31.55.

Donny makes a RIDICULOUSLY FAKE “attempt” to find his wallet (patting all over his body, etc.). Todd just WATCHES him -- which FORCES Donny to KEEP UP THE CHARADE FOR AWHILE.

TODD
Alright, Alligator Arms, take it easy, I got it.

Todd MOCKINGLY MIMES his SHORT ARMED ATTEMPT to pay.

DONNY
What? I was legitimately looking for my wallet.

TODD
(laughs)
It’s too short notice to put a party together, anyway, Don.

DONNY
I could have six girls jammin’ shit into each other on your front lawn by the time we get home.

Todd (and ALL OF MAGNOLIA) LOOKS at Donny.

DONNY (CONT’D)
We said no on the strippers, right? We could just grab a drink, then.

TODD
Listen, I’d love to be able to just party whenever I want...but I’ve got responsibilities, okay? And I can’t piss Stacey off anymore. Maybe another weekend, though. Okay, pal?

Donny POUTS like a child, GRABS a cupcake, then --

DONNY
(jealous tantrum)
Fine! Stacey, Stacey, Stacey!
(takes a BIG BITE)
THIS IS THE WORST CUPCAKE I’VE EVER HAD IN MY LIFE!

INT. DONNY’S ROOM - LATER

Donny FLOPS on the bed; turns the TV ON; FLIPS channels until he STOPS on HBO’s prison show “OZ”. He watches SO HORRIFIED as an INMATE IS BEATEN AND RAPED! Donny SLAMS the TV OFF!

INT. TODD AND STACEY'S ROOM - SAME

Todd walks in to find Stacey examining her wedding dress.

TODD
Stace...I got you red velvets...
(she's unimpressed)
C'mon, I'm sorry okay? I shouldn't have lied to you. But, I'm really psyched to be Catholic. I stopped masturbating and everything.
(she rolls her eyes)
I wonder, though - when it's official, and I'm no longer Jewish - do I instantly become not as good with money? Like, do you think I'll immediately empty our bank accounts and put it all in 'a company my cousin says is totally not a pyramid scheme'?

STACEY
Do you think this is all a big joke? This is our wedding. You know, ever since Donny - your mysterious white trash best friend that I've never heard of who saved your life - showed up, you're like a totally different person.

TODD
What? No, c'mon, I'm sorry. I'm just stressed. With the wedding and the promotion...

STACEY
I just can't deal with anymore surprises, okay? Is there *anything* else you're not telling me?

TODD
(long beat)
Just...that I love you.

STACEY
I'm stressed too, okay? Listen, there's nothing planned wedding wise tonight. I'm gonna go out with my girls and relax. You should go out too. We'll wake up tomorrow and everything'll be back to normal, alright?

She KISSES his cheek and walks out with the dress.

INT. DONNY'S ROOM - LATER

Donny PLAYS WITH GI JOE ACTION FIGURES (making WAR SOUNDS).

DONNY
"I'll save you, Snake Eyes..."

Todd enters, surprised to see Donny playing with toys.

TODD
...Are you playing with GI Joes?

DONNY
What? No, I'm collecting them. They're collector's items.

TODD
...Right. So, I thought about it, and you know what? If I wanna go out, I'm going out. I told Stace I'll be home when I'm home. So, do you still wanna grab a drink?

DONNY
(sits up, excited)
If by 'a drink', you mean 'wake up in somebody else's clothes', I'm in. Call your bros!

TODD
(stammers, lying)
You know, well, it's so last minute - my bros are all probably already out partying. That's how my crew ...do. So let's just do you and me.

DONNY
(touched)
Wow. A one on one hang. Yes.

TODD
So, where should we go? Stacey's friend Rob promotes at Bungalow 8 and Cliche. We could probably get a table and bottle service.

DONNY
We could also probably run over our penises with cars.

TODD
Okay... Where do you wanna go?

DONNY
(jumps to his feet)
Where people don't wait in line for cupcakes!

CUT TO:

A HUGE "WELCOME TO THE JERSEY SHORE" SIGN.

EXT. JERSEY SHORE BOARDWALK - LATER

THE LIT BOARDWALK LOOMS ROMANTIC. Todd sits on the hood of Donny's Fiero as Donny goes through his garbage bag.

TODD
I haven't been here in forever. It seems so much smaller.

DONNY
They actually did close down most the boardwalk. Tough times. But, I know what you mean. So, before we do anything, I gotta give you your wedding present.

Donny hands Todd an 80s BOOMBOX -- Todd's curious.

TODD
Oh...thanks, Don.

DONNY
I'm not giving you my ghetto blaster, I'm --
(deep breath)
When I heard that John Mayer in your car, I was really angry. But then I realized, it's my fault. I shoulda showed you more stuff when you were young, but I was...also young. So, I'm gonna do something I shoulda done a long time ago.

He grabs an ARMFUL OF CASSETTES from his bag, takes another BREATH, then begins an EXCITED LECTURE, PACING throughout.

DONNY (CONT'D)
So a lot of people have the wrong idea about Springsteen.
(MORE)

DONNY (CONT'D)
They think of him as Bon Jovi or something and that makes me BARELY ABLE TO KEEP IT TOGETHER! You're talking about the guy that wrote Thunder Road, man. Watch your mouth! That really should be your first wedding dance - it's embarrassing that it's not, but, I get it, no one's ever *played* you The Boss. Well, get ready to fall in love with a man.
(looks through his TAPES)
There's so many ways into this. I could hit you with Nebraska - by the time it was over you'd kill yourself cause you spent so much of your life not listening to it.
(looks through more TAPES)
Greetings; Darkness; The Wild, The Innocent - You're gonna wanna be buried with all of them, but --
(holds one up, chokes up)
Born To Run. When my Laser Tag franchise went under and you were eating all the money I had left... this is the only thing that stroked my hair and said, "Shhhhh." OOH --
(holds up THE RIVER)
The year you ran away - not that it was a big deal or anything - but, I wore out 3 copies of The River. Fact, The River is about everybody's life ever. That's what The Boss does best. He writes about *your* life. Literally.
(sings)
"I got Mary pregnant, man that was all she wrote, for my 19th birthday I got a union card and a wedding coat...
(gets really into it now)
WE WENT DOWN TO THE COURTHOUSE, THE JUDGE PUT IT ALL TO REST" --

TODD
C'mon, play me something already!

DONNY
Oh, I'm sorry, am I boring you!? Maybe you don't want your life CHANGED FOREVER!

Todd laughs, puts up his hands in surrender.

DONNY (CONT'D)
Alright, I think it's gotta be off The River. She was my first, now she's gonna be yours. But, which song? They're all so deadly...
(looks at it, SMILES)
You know what? I'm gonna start you with something upbeat. Perfect.
(PUTS the tape in)
The Levine boys have always been lone eagles. But, tonight, we're not alone...

He presses PLAY -- the HEROIC intro to "TWO HEARTS" BEGINS. Donny holds his Schlitz out for a TOAST. Todd smiles. They TOUCH CANS as the song EXPLODES for the --

EPIC NIGHT/FALLING IN LOVE MONTAGE [THINK ROMANTIC COMEDY]:

-- BAR. A bartender pours booze down Donny's throat! Todd's RELUCTANT. Donny PULLS him in -- Todd CHOKES down the BOOZE!

-- BOARDWALK. Donny THROWS a ball through a stack of bottles -- wins a HUGE stuffed animal! **HE GIVES IT TO TODD!** The CARNIE looks at them funny -- Donny ATTACKS the Carnie!

-- ALLEY. They SHOTGUN BEERS! Todd's EXPLODES in his FACE! Donny LAUGHS, then TEACHES him -- Todd tries again, SUCCESS!

-- BASKETBALL COURT. 2-ON-2. They're so DRUNK, they just LAUGH. Todd THROWS in a PRAYER -- **THEY HI-FIVE**, then DANCE in the OTHER GUYS' faces -- the guys get PISSED -- they RUN!

-- BACON AND LEGGS. Donny PULLS a reluctant Todd inside. The girls POUNCE, **TODD SMILES!** Champale SMILES at Donny.

-- TODD AND DONNY'S OLD HOUSE. They TOAST to the HOUSE, then look at the sidewalk -- REVEAL Todd's old HANDPRINTS under "THE FAT KID". **DONNY SHRUGS -- TODD LAUGHS FORGIVINGLY!**

DONNY spots a KID'S BIKE. Todd shakes his head NO -- CUT TO: Donny HOLDS the seat as Todd RIDES THE BIKE! Todd smiles HUGE until he realizes Donny's LET GO -- Todd WOBBLES INTO A PARKED CAR! He tries it again -- **NOW TODD'S RIDING A BIKE!**

-- THEY CREST A BIG FERRIS WHEEL WITH **ARMS AROUND EACH OTHER!**

SPRINGSTEEN
"TWO HEARTS ARE BETTER THAN ONE!"

-- ZIERING'S MOTEL. "Two Hearts" FADES DOWN as Todd pulls a RELUCTANT Donny to the door. Donny doesn't wanna knock. Todd knocks -- Ziering answers, SURPRISED/UNHAPPY to see them.

TODD
...Hey, Ziering.

ZIERING
Yo. What's up with you, Han?

DONNY
His name's Todd now. Long story, but, he told everyone he's an orphan.

ZIERING
That's gotta hurt.

DONNY
It's not what you want.

ZIERING
So...you guys are back together?

TODD
I'm getting married, man. And --

ZIERING
YOU HAVEN'T CALLED ME IN 8 YEARS!

Ziering tries to SLAM the door -- Todd HOLDS it open!

TODD
I'M SORRY! I WAS GOING THROUGH SOME THINGS! But, I need you at my wedding! You're like my uncle!

ZIERING
(lets go of the door)
Really? I gotta admit, that's sweet. Thanks.
(checks him out)
You look great, Tom - Is it Tom?

TODD
Todd. Thanks. And, hey, Donny has something he wants to say to you.

They stand there, awkwardly. Todd prods him. Finally --

DONNY
So, I said some stuff. And did some stuff...to your mom. Sorry, I mean, she came on really strong, but --

TODD
You slept with his mom?

DONNY
Yeah. The cougars, man. They've ruined my life. But no more. Ziering, you're my best friend, and I miss just being around you.

ZIERING
Wow. Okay. Well...I guess I said some stuff, too. Of course I still love The Boss. I was just trying to hurt you.

DONNY
I'm sorry I punched you.

ZIERING
I woulda done the same thing.

DONNY
...Two Hearts?

ZIERING
(smiles at them both)
Three Hearts.

"Two Hearts" RE-IGNITES into the end of the montage!

-- QUICK SHOTS: Ziering, Todd and Donny SHOTGUN BEERS; LAUGH; POUND SHOTS; HI-FIVE! They STUMBLE to a CHEESEBURGER STAND.

TODD
I usually try not to eat past 7:30.
(off DONNY/ZIERING'S LOOK)
Okay, gimme a cheeseburger, no bun.
(off another LOOK)
I mean, with EIGHT BUNS!

-- They STUMBLE along eating MESSY CHEESEBURGERS. Todd BUMPS into a DOUCHEBAG. The guy GLARES at Todd -- Donny DECKS him! Ziering DECKS his friend! Donny turns and HITS ON the Douchebags' GIRLS. **TODD DE-PANTSES DONNY! THEY ALL LAUGH!**

-- BEACH. THEY RUN INTO THE OCEAN IN THEIR UNDERWEAR YELLING!

EXT. BEACH - DAWN

Donny and Todd CRASH onto the sand as "Two Hearts" FADES. Ziering FINISHES A BEER -- THEN PASSES <u>OUT COLD ON HIS FACE</u>! Donny PRESSES **STOP** ON HIS BOOMBOX -- **ENDING THE SONG/MONTAGE.**

DONNY
So...what do you think?

Slowly PAN to Todd to REVEAL TEARS IN HIS EYES!

TODD
It was - I mean, he's...

DONNY
I know. He's The Boss.

Todd falls back onto the sand. Donny CRASHES RIGHT NEXT TO HIM. They stare up at the stars, EUPHORICALLY DRUNK/HAPPY.

TODD
You know how long it's been since I had a cheeseburger, man? I wasted my whole life, Don!

DONNY
You kidding? I wasted *my* life!

TODD
At least you had fun. All I had is ...responsibility. And work. I feel like Steve Martin in one of those family movies where he's got too many kids. And I'm only 25.

DONNY
Yeah, what about me? I don't even own silverware. I'm almost 40. No forks, knives, nothing. I still play with GI Joes.

TODD
I didn't get laid til I was 22.

DONNY
Didn't I get you laid when you were 13?

TODD
Yeah. But I didn't do it again til I was 22. God, what's my deal?

Donny PULLS Todd up drunkenly, points at the PERFECT SUNRISE.

DONNY
That's your deal. The future, man. Look at it. It's still yours.

TODD
It's - spectacular.
(beat)
(MORE)

TODD (cont'd)
Can I tell you something, you can't tell anyone? Especially Stacey?
(Donny locks his lips)
I hate my job. I don't wanna be partner. Some days I think about losing everybody's money so they have to fire me. That's not what you want in a money manager.

DONNY
Then quit. I can teach you that.

TODD
Yeah...but, Stacey's gotta have the latest Jimmy Choo lambskin tanktop. And why shouldn't she? She's hot.
(beat)
Do you ever just wanna run away? Leave everything behind and go open a bar somewhere, on a beach, like in Cocktail? Just hang out, and flip bottles around behind your back...you know, like in Cocktail?

DONNY
(STUNNED)
I love Cocktail! That is word for word my dream. Flip bottles, recite poems, make up your own laws for life and tell them to people. "Levine's Law #47: always put the top back on the ketchup...bottle ...of life." It needs work. But - Hey, you know...I took you to see that in the theater.

TODD
Yeah, I remember. You got in a fist fight with the manager cause it was pretty hard R, and I was 6.

They LAUGH. Then Donny LOOKS at Todd, gets <u>PENSIVE</u>, <u>SERIOUS</u>.

DONNY
I - I gotta tell you something Todd. I...I'm - I'm a bad guy.

TODD
No you're not, man. You're not. You just...weren't ready to be a dad. I get it. You were young.

DONNY
(SO TOUCHED, beat)
Hey, lets just do it. Tomorrow morning, let's run away. We'll throw on Born To Run and just go. Open that bar on the beach. C'mon, man, 'Cocktails and Dreams'...

TODD
(smiles at the thought)
'Cocktails and Dreams'... Nah, we can't. The world won't let go of it's grip on my balls. It's cool though, I'm used to it.

DONNY
It doesn't have to be that way. You don't have to live this life if you don't want to.

TODD
Yeah I do. I'm in love.

DONNY
Are you sure?

They look at each other LONG...then it gets awkward.

TODD
...We should probably get going.

INT. DONNY'S ROOM - LATER

They stand at Donny's door, awkwardly, like the end of a really great first date (THEY JUST FELL IN LOVE).

DONNY
So...classic night. I had a great time, Todd.

TODD
Yeah. Me too, Don.

Donny hands Todd all his SPRINGSTEEN CASSETTES.

TODD (CONT'D)
...But, I don't have a tape player.

DONNY
Still, I want you to have them. I should probably make the move to CDs anyway. It's time to grow up.

TODD
...Okay, but, you know, they're not really using CDs anymore either.

DONNY
I love you - Oh, shit, sorry. Was that too soon?

TODD
No, it's alright. Thanks, man.

They stand there awkwardly, not sure how to end it (the "Should I go in for a kiss?" moment at the end of a date).

TODD (CONT'D)
So...good night, Don.

DONNY
(smiles)
"Good night, *Dad*"? I mean, you could just see how it feels...

TODD
(laughs, smiles)
Good night, Don.

Don goes for the HUG -- AS Todd goes for the HANDSHAKE -- then they SWITCH SIMULTANEOUSLY -- finally, they settle on an awkward BRO HUG THING. It's nice. Todd leaves. **DONNY FLOPS ON THE BED AND SMILES LIKE A TEENAGER IN LOVE!**

EXT. DONNY'S ROOM - SAME

TODD LEANS UP AGAINST THE DOOR AND SMILES THAT SAME SMILE! Suddenly, his face goes GREEN -- he RUSHES to the bathroom!

INT. DONNY'S ROOM - LATER

Donny undresses to his BRIEFS -- throws his clothes on the FLOOR -- then looks around at his MESSY ROOM. He shakes his head, then starts to CLEAN HIS ROOM! BEHIND HIM, Helen (sexy nightie) slips in. She GRABS him -- STARTLED, he JUMPS AWAY!

DONNY
Whoa, Helen, what're you doing!?

HELEN HAYWARD
Call me Mrs. Hayward. You know, I was a sub for 24 years.

She PURSUES him -- he RETREATS around the room.

DONNY
Um, okay, cool, but, Mrs. Hayward, you gotta get outta here.

HELEN HAYWARD
Actually, call me Mrs. Robinson.

He hits the wall, CORNERED. She POUNCES. KISSING, MOANING!

DONNY
SHH! Wow - okay, Mrs. Robinson - I'm into role play as much as the next guy, but Todd specifically asked me not to have sex with you. Your husband's upstairs, it's your daughter's wedding. This is wrong!

HELEN HAYWARD
I know it is.

Donny ENJOYS it a second -- then PUSHES her away!

DONNY
No! I do not wanna have sex.

HELEN HAYWARD
(looks down at his briefs)
...Uh, are you sure?

DONNY
(looks at his erection)
That's...not what it looks like. Seriously, no. No thank you.

SHE PUSHES HIM HARD ONTO THE BED! He's SURPRISED by that.

HELEN HAYWARD
This is happening whether you like it or not. So you might as well try and enjoy it.

INT. HALL BATHROOM - SAME

Todd PUKES in the sink! He BLINDLY grabs what he THINKS IS A TOWEL off the door, WIPES HIS FACE, leaves. REVEAL the towel was actually **STACEY'S WEDDING DRESS** -- IT'S COVERED IN PUKE!

HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Todd stumbles down the hall -- HEARS MOANS from Donny's room.

TODD
Uh, Don, is everything okay?

DONNY (O.S.)
Totally. I'm just...masturbating.

TODD
...Oh, okay. I'm sick, man, I'll catch you tomorrow.

INT. DONNY'S ROOM - SAME

Helen and Donny WRESTLE on the bed as he FENDS her off!

DONNY
Shh! I'm saying no. No! Why's there such a DOUBLE STANDARD ON THIS THING!?

HE PUSHES HER OFF THE BED! She sits up, laughs defiantly.

HELEN HAYWARD
Fine. You know, I cheated on Robert Redford. That's how hot I was. We were dating and *I* cheated on *him*. In his prime.

DONNY
C'mon, you *are* hot. But, this isn't right. I can't do this to Todd. And besides, you've got a perfect family. You really wanna throw all that away for one night of the best sex you ever had?

Helen laughs, chokes up a little.

HELEN HAYWARD
Perfect? Me and Jon haven't slept together in 11 years. He doesn't even look at me.

DONNY
Well...he's an idiot.
(being nice)
Hey, another weekend, and I'd be doing some really bad stuff to you.

HELEN HAYWARD
That's the sweetest thing anyone's ever said to me. Okay. Well, then, another weekend it is.

Donny didn't mean a raincheck. She kisses him and exits.

INT. TODD AND STACEY'S BEDROOM - THE NEXT MORNING

The sun is up out the window. Todd is fast asleep. Suddenly, a SHRILL SCREAM ERUPTS from downstairs!

STACEY (O.S.)
AHHHHHH!! OH MY GOD!! HEEELLLP!!

Todd wakes up, HUNGOVER. Stacey runs in YELLING, holding her DRESS! Todd JUMPS up -- TRIPS -- SLAMS into the WALL!

TODD
What happened? Are you okay!?

STACEY
Do I sound okay!? I'm screaming at the top of my lungs! My dress is covered in PUKE!

Todd thinks back...REMEMBERS, then -- Donny (in just briefs) RUSHES in wielding NUNCHUCKS and SCREAMING!

DONNY
AAAHHHH!
(looks around, beat)
Whoa, sorry. I thought someone was killing Stacey. What's going on?

STACEY
Oh, I don't know, Don, I found my wedding dress in your bathroom covered in PUKE! I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU PUKED ON MY WEDDING DRESS!

TODD
Whoa, whoa. No, Stace. It wasn't - I'm sorry, but, it was...

DONNY
(covers for Todd)
-- A huge mistake. I was so drunk and - I'm really, really sorry.

STACEY
DON'T THEY HAVE SCHOOLS IN YOUR TRAILER PARK!?

TODD
(surprised by her anger)
Stace, relax. I mean, it was clearly an accident, and he --

STACEY
DON'T BE SUCH A PUSSY, TODD!

Todd doesn't know what to say, then -- ZIERING (NUDE) SPRINTS IN WIELDING A LAMP, YELLING! They turn to look at him -- he realizes everything's okay (and that he's naked).

ZIERING
Oh sorry. You...must be the bride.
(uncomfortable beat)
Whaazzzuuuuuuup?

STACEY
(so confused)
Are you Ian Ziering?

ZIERING
Thanks. Yeah. I could sign something for you if you want or...

STACEY
(to Todd)
Why is Steve Sanders cupping his penis in my bedroom right now?

TODD
Um...he's...

ZIERING
(thinking he's smooth)
I'm Tom's uncle.

STACEY
Who's Tom?

Ziering's lost -- Donny jumps in, trying to help.

DONNY
Oh, that's just a nickname he has for Todd.

STACEY
His nickname for Todd is Tom?

ZIERING
Yep.

STACEY
(to Todd)
And he's your uncle?

TODD
He's like an uncle...figure.

STACEY
So...you never mentioned to me that Ian Ziering is like an uncle figure to you?

TODD
It never came up.

STACEY
I thought we said no more lies!

TODD
Well, this was more of an omission.

STACEY
I don't know what's going on, but I don't have time to deal with this!
(deep breath, crazy calm)
Ohhmm. Here's what's gonna happen. I'm gonna take my dress to the dry cleaners, go to pilates, meet the wedding planner, then tonight we're gonna go to the rehearsal dinner, and you're gonna be the normal Todd from 3 days ago. Then tomorrow we're gonna get married and live HAPPILY EVER AFTER! I'll yell at you on the honeymoon.

She STORMS out. LONG BEAT, as her yelling sinks in.

ZIERING
She reminds me of a young Shannon Doherty.

TODD
I mean, I did puke on her wedding dress. But, some of the name-calling seemed excessive, right?

Long silent beat. Ziering admires Donny's nunchucks.

ZIERING
Sweet nunchucks, man.
(beat, looks at his WRIST)
So I'm gonna throw on some clothes.
(MORE)

ZIERING (cont'd)
Gotta get to the rink. Big Bat Mitzvah party today. Thanks for letting me crash, man.

Ziering AWKWARDLY (nakedly) hugs them, then turns and goes -- REVEAL a HUGE SPRINGSTEEN TATTOO on his back as he exits.

TODD
Thanks for covering for me, Don.

DONNY
No problem. You know, you can tell me if she hits you...

TODD
Wow, right? I don't...
(checks his watch)
Hey, we gotta hurry if we're gonna make it to the prison.

DONNY
What? You still wanna go?

TODD
I told you I would. And I'm not gonna make this situation any worse. But we should hurry. If I'm late to the rehearsal dinner, Stacey might go on a killing spree.

DONNY
(laughs, then TORN)
Oh, yeah. You sure, though?

TODD
I could use the drive. And you shouldn't go alone. And, I mean, I should see her if she might...*die*.

INT. TODD'S MERCEDES - LATER

Todd stares out the window, MULLING HIS FUTURE. Donny stares out the window, CONFLICTED. Donny turns to him POINTEDLY.

DONNY
8 years, man? *8 years?* Didn't you miss me at all? Was I that bad?

TODD
(long beat, sighs)
It wasn't you...only. I just got tired of getting called Rape Baby all the time, you know?

DONNY
Yeah, I'm tired of getting called Donny Levine all the time, I guess.
(looks at Todd, sincerely)
I'm sorry, Todd. I know I kinda just threw you into life. Like the pool. But you learned to swim pretty good. Wait, that's a legit metaphor. Nice. The pool of life.
(Todd laughs)
We were kinda just growing up at the same time, you know? And I didn't really have any good parenting models to show me how it's done. My mom died when I was 5, and my dad - your grandpa - always blamed me. Cause she fell off a roller coaster at my birthday party.
(CHOKES UP)
That can't be my fault, right?

TODD
...No, man. That's ridiculous.

DONNY
Thanks. That's what I always said. Talk about bad dads. That's why I moved us out the second I turned 18. However messed up you think you are, you woulda been worse if he raised you. Trust me. You woulda ended up like...me.

TODD
C'mon...you're not so bad.

DONNY
You and I have a lot in common. We barely knew our moms, and we both ran out on our shitty dads.
(they laugh nostalgic/sad)
Hey, we had some good times when you were young, right? When you still thought I was your brother?

QUICK FLASHBACKS:

-- METS GAME. 6 Year Old Todd RAISES his glove to catch a FOUL BALL...a DRUNK GUY leans in, SNATCHES it away! Donny TACKLES the guy, BEATS HIM, then hands the ball to Todd!

-- PARTY. 27 Year Old Donny and his FRIENDS CHEER as 13 Year Old Todd CHOKES DOWN a beer bong -- then HI-FIVES everyone!

THEN, Donny PUSHES drunk 13 Year Old Todd into a BEDROOM. AS THE DOOR CLOSES, we see 2 GIRLS smile SEDUCTIVELY and walk toward a VERY SCARED TODD (he's about to lose his virginity).

BACK TO PRESENT, TODD'S MERCEDES:

They both laugh, NOSTALGICALLY.

TODD
Yeah. You weren't the best dad, but you were a great older brother. And...also, thanks for taking me out last night. That was cool.

DONNY
Hey, what're friends for? Or brothers, or fathers - or whatever we are. What're they for?

TODD
You know, when you showed up here I was sure you were just after money. But - I can't believe I'm saying this - I'm really glad you're gonna be at my wedding tomorrow.

Donny's SO TOUCHED. He thinks...then SUDDENLY --

DONNY
You know what? Forget the prison. Let's blow it off. Are there any good mini-golf courses around here?

TODD
What? I thought this was really important to you.

DONNY
(HIDING SOMETHING)
No, I changed my mind. I don't wanna go. She'll probably survive.

TODD
We're here already. We gotta do this. It's the right thing to do.

Donny looks out the window, SO CONFLICTED, as they pull into the lot of the "NEW JERSEY STATE WOMEN'S PENITENTIARY".

INT. JERSEY STATE PRISON - LATER

They wait for the VISITORS DOOR to open. They're both NERVOUS. Donny's SO TORN, he looks around ANXIOUSLY.

DONNY
Todd. I - I'm sorry.

TODD
I know. I'm sorry too. I shouldn't have just run out on you like that.

Todd HUGS him clumsily. Donny's SO TOUCHED. The DOOR OPENS. Todd walks into the VISITORS ROOM. Donny trails, HESITANTLY.

THE VISITORS ROOM - CONTINUOUS

REVEAL MARY MCGARRICLE (older now, but still so hot, like if Goldie Hawn had big Jersey hair and TATTOOS). She SPRINTS to Donny and KISSES him rabidly! A BIG GUARD PULLS her off him!

BIG GUARD
C'mon, Mary. You know the rules.

MARY MCGARRICLE
Gimme a break, Gary. I'm horny!

She looks at Todd dramatically. He's NERVOUS/SPEECHLESS...

MARY MCGARRICLE (CONT'D)
...Oh my god. My...baby?

TODD
Um...hey, what's up with you?

She BEAR HUGS him! Donny looks around SO ANXIOUS NOW.

TODD (CONT'D)
(re: Mary's full hair)
So...at least the chemo hasn't made you lose your hair.

MARY MCGARRICLE
...Chemo?

Todd notices Donny's ANXIETY. Todd looks around and spots **MONTEL WILLIAMS AND A FULL CAMERA CREW IN THE CORNER.**

TODD
Is that Montel Williams?

DONNY
What a weird coincidence.

Montel RUSHES forward wielding his microphone at Todd.

MONTEL WILLIAMS
Hello, Han. Thanks for giving us your first ever exclusive. Can you describe what you're feeling?

TODD
...What?

MONTEL WILLIAMS
It must be emotional for you to see your mother after so long.

TODD
(looks at Donny)
What is this?

DONNY
Before you say anything. We get a hundred grand.

TODD
I - I can't believe you...
(re: Mary McGarricle)
Is - Is she even dying?

DONNY
...Dying to know where the junior high kids hang out.
(off EVERYONE'S LOOK)
Too soon?

TODD
Wow. I'm actually impressed. This is an amazing new low for you.

DONNY
They would only pay big if it was the whole family. But, I set this up before me and you started, you know...loving each other again --

TODD
I NEVER LOVED YOU! How could you put me on TV with this shit!?

DONNY
I - I'm in a lot of trouble, okay!? I need 45 grand by Tuesday or I'm going to jail for 3 years.

TODD
(laughs)
These are my parents, ladies and gentleman. Can you believe I'm still alive?

DONNY
Listen, it makes sense. I didn't wanna just *ask* you for the money cause, you know, teach a man to fish and - so I thought --

TODD
-- You'd trick me into doing an on camera interview with Montel Williams? Did you actually think I wouldn't be mad!?

DONNY
I DIDN'T REALLY THINK IT THROUGH, OKAY?! I DON'T WANNA GO TO PRISON!
(to the Guard)
No offense.

Todd STARTS out -- Donny GRABS him -- Todd DECKS him!

TODD
Every minute I've been in this world I've been fighting against you trying to destroy me. I can't believe I entertained the idea of --
(stops himself)
Really, can you spend just one day not trying to ruin my life?!

DONNY
Yeah, well, you ruined my life! Don't you think I had dreams!? If you weren't born I probably woulda been a pro baseball player. That's what I was planning to do! But, yay! It's a baby! WHAT A BLESSING! Was I supposed to just put my whole life aside for you!?

TODD
YES! It's called parenting! How do you live with yourself?

DONNY
How do you live with *yourself*? Oh that's right, you don't. You leave your family, make up a whole fake self, and LIVE WITH HIM!

TODD
GOD, I WISH YOU WEREN'T MY DAD!

DONNY
I wish I <u>wasn't</u> your dad! Then I could kick your ass and NOT GET ARRESTED FOR CHILD ABUSE!

Todd KICKS Donny -- Donny CATCHES his leg and PULLS him down! They roll around WRESTLING! Todd gets on top, CHOKES Donny!

DONNY
It's - a really - big moment when you beat up your dad for the first time. Con - gratulations.

TODD
YOU'RE NOT MY DAD!

The Guard TASERS them -- they SEIZURE apart, SHIVER IN PAIN!

TODD
Oh my god that hurts!

DONNY
I'm dying!

Todd recovers, CRAWLS away and out the door. Donny slumps.

MONTEL WILLIAMS
...Uh, Don, we can't use anything without his consent. You pulled me away from St. Barts for this shit!?

DONNY
Oh, gimme a break, Montel. My life's falling apart right now.

MONTEL WILLIAMS
That's the last time you ever do my show. Unless maybe we book you for 'The Worst Dads Ever'!

DONNY
You wanna hurt feelings? Okay, you look like a PENIS WITH A GOATEE!

Montel STORMS off! Mary McGarricle CRADLES Donny, PUTS HER HANDS THROUGH his hair.

MARY MCGARRICLE
You look smoking hot, Donny.

DONNY
Thanks, Miss McGarricle.

She smiles at him. Donny KISSES her passionately -- the Guard TASERS him again!

DONNY (CONT'D)
OH, C'MON GARY!

INT. DONNY'S ROOM - LATER

Donny THROWS his stuff into his GARBAGE BAG. That old PHOTO of him and Young Todd falls out. He picks it up, pauses to admire it, SO SADLY. HE CHOKES UP. A PHONE RINGS O.S.

EXT. DONNY'S ROOM - SAME

Stacey ANSWERS the phone right outside Donny's door.

STACEY (ON THE PHONE)
Hello?
(whispers)
Bill, I told you not to call me on this phone. What if Todd picked up?

INT. DONNY'S ROOM - SAME

Donny goes to the door, listens to Stacey SUSPICIOUSLY.

STACEY (O.S)
No, Todd doesn't know anything. I don't care if he finds out after the wedding. There'll be nothing he can do then, anyway. Bill - Bill, I'm calling you on my cell.
(yells upstairs)
Todd, let's go! We're late!

Donny hears her walk away. HE'S FREAKED, then runs out --

STAIRCASE - MOMENTS LATER

Donny comes up the stairs as Todd hurries down.

DONNY
Todd, we gotta talk.

TODD
No, we don't. Pack your shit and get out of my life forever.

Todd BLOWS by him and out the front door!

INT. TODD'S MERCEDES - LATER

Todd drives, DISTRACTED, DESPONDENT. Stacey's curious.

STACEY
What's going on now?

TODD
Nothing. Everything's awesome.

STACEY
My dad thinks you're a drug dealer or something.

TODD
Sorry. Tell him I'm not, please.

They pull up to the FOUR SEASONS RESTAURANT.

STACEY
Well, snap out of it. This is our rehearsal dinner. You look like you just got punched in the ass!

She gets out, PISSED -- SLAMS the door behind her!

INT. FOUR SEASONS RESTAURANT - LATER

A BAND plays. A formal rehearsal dinner. 200 PEOPLE. Todd tries to smile as he talks to Bill, in a group of Stacey, Jon, Helen, Chad, Mia and others.

BILL SCOTT
So, Todd, I have some news. I was gonna wait 'til tomorrow, but I can't hold it in. I decided... You're my new partner! YOU GOT IT!

Stacey CLAPS and SMILES -- then <u>SHE HUGS BILL EMPHATICALLY</u>!

HELEN HAYWARD
Oh my god, honey. Congratulations!

TODD
(not psyched)
Wow, Bill I don't know what to say.

BILL SCOTT
Say you won't let me down. It's gonna be a lot more responsibility, but it's also gonna be a lot more of that sweet female deer.
(off everyone's confusion)
Doe. Money. Your name goes up on the door on Monday!
(puts up his champagne)
Here's to the Scott Peterson Fund!

Everyone realizes that's a famous murderer's name.

BILL SCOTT (CONT'D)
We're gonna work on the name!

They all TOAST (Todd's SO DAZED)! And now in comes Donny -- he spots them -- hurries over.

BILL SCOTT (CONT'D)
Donny! There he is! The best man!

DONNY
You wish, Bill! Todd, can we talk?

Bill's confused. Todd walks away, Donny catches up to him.

DONNY (CONT'D)
Hey, I'm sorry. I'm sorry. C'mon, please. These last few days I've been happy for the first time in forever, okay? I don't want your money. I just want you. And that sounds so gay, but I don't even care. But forget all that, you're marrying the wrong girl, Todd. She's cheating on you.

TODD
Really? *That's* what you're going with now? Unbelievable. Leave <u>quietly</u>. If you ruin this, I'll --

We HEAR CLINKING of a glass. ON STAGE, Helen takes the mic.

HELEN HAYWARD
Family's the most important thing there is and - You two are about to start your own, and...Oh, I'm not good at this. I shoulda had Donny write me something. His speeches are so hot - I mean - I just - I love you both so much! Yay!

Helen runs over and HUGS Stacey and Todd. Donny (SO SAD) looks at Todd PLEADINGLY -- Todd just looks away, SO COLD.

DONNY
That was a beautiful speech, Helen. Makes me miss my son.

HELEN HAYWARD
The private eye?

DONNY
(directed at Todd)
No, he's not a dick. I thought he was. But - I'm the dick.

CHAD
You're a private eye?

DONNY
What? No. I --
(directed at Todd)
I just wanna be in his life. I've made a lot of mistakes - but I love him. I do. But, he hates me.

JON HAYWARD
Kids are so unappreciative these days.

TODD
(to Donny)
Well, you're probably a terrible father.

STACEY
Todd.

TODD
What? I'm just saying, usually a kid doesn't hate his dad unless he's a complete asshole who only thinks about himself.

DONNY
You know, I think maybe he's gay, and it's one of those deals where it's tearing him up inside.

TODD
Yeah, I don't think that's it. It's probably that you always cared more about being on Arsenio than being there for him.

DONNY
I HAD TO PAY THE BILLS, HAN!

Everyone's CONFUSED. Todd turns to Jon.

TODD
So, Jon, have you considered what you want me to call you once me and Stacey tie the knot?

JON HAYWARD
Uh...what do you mean?

TODD
(taunting Donny)
I was thinking maybe I would call you Dad. What do you think of that, *Dad*?

JON HAYWARD
...Well, I --

DONNY
You know, funny story about my son, he's never made a SINGLE MISTAKE IN HIS LIFE EVER!

Todd puts his ARM AROUND Jon and SQUEEZES.

TODD
Do you think that's funny, Dad? I don't think it is, *Dad*. Wow, you're such a great Dad. I bet you'd never tie me to my bed instead of hiring a BABYSITTER!

DONNY
I WAS GONE FOR 45 MINUTES!

TODD
I PISSED ALL OVER MYSELF!

Now everyone's THOROUGHLY CONFUSED.

STACEY
Todd, honey...

DONNY
Gimme the mic! I've got a toast!

TODD
No you don't!

DONNY
BEST MAN TOAST!

Donny CLINKS his glass as he climbs on stage -- Todd GRABS his arm -- they WRESTLE for the mic -- Donny SHAKES him off!

DONNY (CONT'D)
(into the mic)
They say that love is blind. And when I look at Stacey, then I look at Todd, I know that must be true.
(everyone laughs nervous)
I'm just kidding folks. But I wanna get serious for a --

Todd GRABS the mic -- as they WRESTLE for control, Donny gets a few words in.

DONNY (CONT'D)
Love - is not something you - can turn on and off --
(PUSHES Todd away)
Han! I'm sorry! I just wanna be your Dad! Why won't you love --

Todd TACKLES DONNY INTO THE BAND -- CRASH! The whole party is STUNNED as they roll off the STAGE -- THUD!

STACEY
WHAT IS GOING ON, TODD?!?!

TODD
(PUSHES Donny off him)
Great. Awesome. It's - It's --
(sighs, to Stacey)
Okay. Don't get too mad. But... well, Donny is my dad. Sort of.

STACEY
But...I thought your dad was dead.

TODD
Well, technically, he's dead to me. I'm sorry, honey, it's complicated.

HELEN HAYWARD
But you two are so close in age. How can he be your dad?

CHAD
(puts it together)
Wait, are you the rape baby? No way, bro. Awesome.

TODD
Yeah, it's been a great ride, Chad.

Stacey looks around at all the guests, SHE'S SO EMBARRASSED.

STACEY
I - I can't believe you lied to me about something this big.

TODD
Stace, I'm sorry, I was just trying to protect you from all this.

DONNY
Oh c'mon, "Protect you from all this"? I had sex with my teacher. The end. I still don't get why you don't think that's cool.

TODD
Oh, I'm sorry it was a little weird for me that my mom raped my dad and went to prison for 30 years!

DONNY
STATUTORY! And if this was Greece, no one woulda said a word.

TODD
What?

DONNY
I said 'if this was Greece, no one woulda said a word' --

TODD
No, I heard you. It was just so stupid.

DONNY
Well, I'm SORRY, HAN! I'm sorry I did the best I could!

STACEY
Why does he keep calling you Han?

TODD
Oh, because my real name's Han Solo Levine. That's what happens when a 14 year old names you in 1984. But it wasn't that big a deal cause most the kids at school just called me RAPE BABY!
(to Stacey)
I thought it'd never come up. I haven't seen him in 8 years. The only reason he's even here is cause he needs $45,000.

Everyone GASPS/GLARES at Donny -- he tries to defend himself.

DONNY
In my defense, I'm looking at 3 years in jail.

STACEY
Han Solo Levine? I - I don't even know your real name? HOW COULD YOU KEEP SECRETS LIKE THIS FROM ME!?

DONNY
You wanna talk about SECRETS, STACE!? HUH!? What about the *secret* that you're having an affair with Todd's boss!?

BILL SCOTT
What?

DONNY
My vibes are always right. I knew you were bad news. Yeah, you thought no one would catch on to you. Well, you didn't count out Donny Levine! I heard you on the phone. "*Bill, don't call me on this number. What if Todd picks up? After the wedding it'll be too late.*" YEAH!

Everyone GASPS. Bill's Wife GLARES at him. Todd looks at Stacey, CONFUSED...she just LAUGHS. Then --

STACEY
OHMIGOD YOU'RE AN IDIOT! Yeah, I *was* on the phone with Bill. Goldstein. The New York Times wedding reporter. He's gonna do a piece on our wedding. I didn't want Todd to know because he doesn't like being in the paper. So yeah, you caught me, I'm a terrible person. I'm sorry I wanted the whole world to know that I married the perfect guy! Todd, I hope you can forgive me for keeping such a *big secret* from you!
(looks around)
GOD, THIS IS SO EMBARRASSING!

She RUNS OUT! Todd GLARES at Donny, then PURSUES her! Everyone LOOKS at Donny.

DONNY
...Not my best toast.

EXT. FOUR SEASONS RESTAURANT - MOMENTS LATER

IT'S POURING RAIN. Todd catches up to Stacey in the street.

TODD
Stacey, I - I'm sorry. Please. All that's just my past. It doesn't change anything about us.

STACEY
It changes our first kiss.

TODD
What?

STACEY
Remember? Central Park? You told me how you watched your parents explode in front of your eyes, how you couldn't get their screams out of your head. I was crying, you were crying, then we kissed. That was our first kiss.

TODD
Okay. I'm not proud of that. But, trust me, the real story would've made you cry too. Everything else you know about me is true.
(MORE)

TODD (cont'd)
(beat)
Except my name. But what's a name, really? Except an existential ...shackle...meant to - I love you.

Stacey looks over his shoulder -- some GUESTS have come out.

STACEY
HOW COULD YOU EMBARRASS ME IN FRONT OF ALL THESE PEOPLE?!

CHAD
(walks up)
C'mon, Stace, let's go.

STACEY
I need to think. I'm going to *our* honeymoon suite. DON'T follow me.

Stacey runs off. Chad FAKES a punch at Todd -- Todd FLINCHES WILDLY, FALLS backwards over bushes! Chad RUNS after Stacey.

AN HOUR LATER

Todd sits on the curb, DRINKING in the RAIN. Behind him, the last few GUESTS wait for their cars. Bill approaches.

BILL SCOTT
Okay, then...good to see you...

TODD
Yeah, awesome seeing you.

BILL SCOTT
So...we might need to rethink the whole partnership thing a bit.

TODD
Yeah. I understand.

BILL SCOTT
Thanks for...a great night, though.

TODD
Are we really pretending like all that didn't JUST HAPPEN!?

BILL SCOTT
...No, sorry. So...you'll keep us posted on the status of tomorrow?

TODD
YEAH! CHECK MY BLOG!

Bill slinks off. Donny approaches gingerly -- Todd CLAPS.

TODD (CONT'D)
Hey-o! How bout a Lucas clap for the father of the year, Donny Levine. Nicely done!

DONNY
I - I'm sorry. I don't know what to say.

TODD
(swigs the bottle)
I don't know what she was doing with me in the first place. She's not the best I could do, she's like 10 times the best I could do. Her body with a dragon's head, is still like 5 times better than I could do. It was like God made one too many super hot girls and said, 'ah, fuck it, give her to the fat kid that never had anything.'

DONNY
That's bullshit. You're Han Solo Levine - or Todd Peterson, or whatever. She doesn't deserve you.

TODD
(GLARES at Donny)
She's the only person in the world that loves me.

DONNY
Well...then, I'll take the blame. Just tell me what to do.

TODD
Leave! My life's ruined. You've got a real talent for this. You're the Picasso of crushing my dreams.

Todd walks off. Donny stands there in the rain, SO UPSET... Then Donny's FACE STEELS, and --

EXT. MANHATTAN STREETS - LATER

Donny's Fiero SCREAMS through the RAINY streets!

He SCREECHES to a HALT in front of THE PLAZA HOTEL -- JUMPS out of his Fiero -- WHIPS his keys at the VALET and RUNS IN!

INT. THE PLAZA HOTEL, HALLWAY - LATER

Donny RUNS, following the SIGNS to the “HONEYMOON SUITE”. He rounds the last corner -- STOPS DEAD IN HIS TRACKS -- Donny’s POV: Stacey and Chad walk to her room -- **SHE’S ALL OVER HIM!**

Donny slinks behind the corner, SPIES AS... **THEY KISS!** Then they stumble into her room **MAKING OUT AGGRESSIVELY!**

Donny’s STUNNED/HEARTBROKEN. He PACES, not sure what to do. Finally, he takes a DEEP BREATH, goes and BANGS on the door! Stacey opens -- pulls the door behind her so he can’t see in.

STACEY
What’re you doing here? You wanna puke on the honeymoon suite, too? My wedding was perfect til you showed up!

DONNY
Yeah, real perfect. Can I come in?

STACEY
No. This isn’t a good time.

DONNY
I came here to get you to take him back, to tell you how bad of a person I am. But you’re worse.

He PUSHES his way in to find Chad (NAKED, Ed Hardy hat).

STACEY
We’re just talking. Nakedly.

DONNY
I can’t believe you’re cheating on him.

STACEY
This...was just a mistake, okay?

CHAD
Donny, if you think about it, there’s no such thing as cheating. We’re all one.

DONNY
Seriously, brosef, the only reason I’m not fighting you right now is cause you’ve got your guy out and I don’t wanna touch it.
(MORE)

DONNY (cont'd)
But you better sit down before I life coach your face apart!

Chad puts his HANDS UP, sits. Donny turns to Stacey, HURT.

DONNY (CONT'D)
I knew I was right about you. Do you even love him at all?

STACEY
Oh grow up. Love isn't some stupid Springsteen song. We're adults. Marriage is about partnership. And me and Todd make great partners. This is just sex. It's what good looking people do, they sleep with other good looking people. It doesn't mean anything.

CHAD
(hurt)
Really? I sorta thought we were having the whole 'old friends realize they're in love right before it's too late' romantic comedy kinda moment. I was gonna break up the wedding tomorrow and everything.

STACEY
Really? What about Mia?

CHAD
She's just a model I hired to pretend to be my girlfriend for the weekend. To make you jealous.

STACEY
Chad, that's...sweet...and you're hot, but, you're not exactly marriage material. You still have roommates.

DONNY
You can't marry Todd tomorrow. C'mon, you gotta call it off.

STACEY
Hey, I want the good life just as much as you or anyone else.

DONNY
...God, you're just after his money?
(MORE)

DONNY (cont'd)
Todd's not like you...or me. He's actually *good*. Well, I failed him his entire life, I'm not failing him anymore.

STACEY
You're really gonna ruin this for him? I make him happy, and I'm gonna keep making him happy. He doesn't need to know about any of this.
(off Donny's reluctance)
I WANNA BE A SOCIALITE!

Donny's APALLED, he shakes his head and STARTS out --

STACEY (CONT'D)
How much? 45,000?
(Donny STOPS)
In 24 hours, I'm gonna be a very rich woman. You don't wanna go to jail, do you? That's the kinda rape you don't write a book about.

Donny watches as she grabs her CHECKBOOK, writes a CHECK.

STACEY (CONT'D)
I'm writing you a check and dating it for Tuesday. I'll even round up. $50,000.
(hands him the check)
You keep your mouth shut, disappear forever, and everybody wins.

DONNY
Except Todd.

STACEY
Are you kidding? Todd gets this.

She motions towards her SUPER HOT BODY. Donny looks at the CHECK, and then her BODY, then back at the CHECK...

EXT. CLASSY RICK'S BACON AND LEGGS - NEXT MORNING

The sun is up on the morning of the wedding.

INT. CLASSY RICK'S BACON AND LEGGS - SAME

Donny picks at a plate of stale breakfast, depressed. <u>REAL</u> ROCK BOTTOM. A stripper in an arm cast, ESCALADE, approaches.

ESCALADE
Hey, Donny.

DONNY
Hey Escalade. How you doing?

ESCALADE
Ugh, decent. Some idiot came on my favorite costume.

DONNY
I know the feeling.

ESCALADE
(looks at him odd)
...You want a dance?

Donny shrugs. She MOUNTS him...then notices he's CRYING.

ESCALADE
...Are you crying?

DONNY
What? No. This is how I orgasm.
(beat)
Is Champale here?

ESCALADE
She's not in yet. Don't worry, baby, I'll take care of you.

INT. TODD AND STACEY'S BEDROOM - SAME

Todd wakes up, OPENS his eyes -- surprised to see Stacey.

TODD
Are - are you...back?

STACEY
Maybe.

TODD
I'm sorry I lied. But he's gone. He's out of our lives forever.
(hugs her legs, begging)
Please. I love you. Please marry me. I literally have no one else in the world but you.

STACEY
(smiles sinisterly)
I know you don't, baby.
(MORE)

STACEY (cont'd)
And I wanna marry you, but you gotta promise me: no more secrets. And no more Donny. Ever.

TODD
I swear.

STACEY
Okay then, let's go get married.

INT. CLASSY RICK'S BACON AND LEGGS - LATER

Donny's really CRYING now. Escalade's UNSURE what to do.

DONNY
Why does everyone always end up with the wrong person? Han and *Stacey*? They're so wrong for each other. On so many levels. But, in an hour, they'll be married. Yay!

ESCALADE
So, you love her or something?

DONNY
What? No, him. I love him. The groom. And if he marries her, I know I'll never get him back. We should be together, not them.

ESCALADE
...Does he know you love him?

DONNY
Yeah. Sort of.

ESCALADE
(confused)
Well...is he even gay?

DONNY
What? No. He's my son.

ESCALADE
This just got weird.

DONNY
God, where's Champale? I WANT CHAMPALE!

Just then, Champale limps through the door.

CHAMPALE
Donny? What're you doing here?

DONNY
(choking up)
Just keeping the party going.

CHAMPALE
Aren't you supposed to be at the wedding?

DONNY
I sorta got dis-invited.

She pats his back lovingly. Donny LOOKS UP AT HER SADLY.

DONNY (CONT'D)
She's cheating on him. I saw it. And I didn't tell him. All to save my own ass. And now they're getting married. I'm the worst person in the world. But, I can't go to prison, right? Anyone woulda done the same thing, *right?*

ESCALADE
You gotta look out for number one.

Champale GLARES at Escalade -- who shrugs and walks away.

DONNY
What do I do, Champale?

CHAMPALE
I can't tell you that. Especially if you don't already know, Don.

She walks away in a HUFF. He leans back and thinks...THEN --

EXT. CLASSY RICK'S BACON AND LEGGS - LATER

"BORN TO RUN" EXPLODES as Donny SPRINTS to his Fiero! He SLIDES across the hood -- gets in and PEELS OUT of the lot!

INT. TODD'S HOUSE - LATER

"Born To Run" CUTS OUT as Todd puts on his tux -- Donny's BOOK catches his eye. He KNOCKS it off the table -- it lands OPEN. He looks closer at the DEDICATION on the first page:

"To Han, wherever you are. I miss you. Call me."

Todd smiles. Stacey walks in.

STACEY
Let's go.

TODD
...Hey, Stace, I was thinking about our first dance. Have you ever heard Thunder Road? It's --

STACEY
We're not having our first dance as a married couple to Bon Jovi.

TODD
It's not Bon Jovi, it's Springsteen.

STACEY
Same difference. "Your Body Is A Wonderland" is our song.

TODD
It's more your song, though...

STACEY
Are you really gonna fight me on anything right now? You're kinda on thin ice, aren't you?

TODD
(crestfallen)
Yeah. You're right. Sorry.

INT. DONNY'S FIERO - LATER

"Born To Run" REIGNITES as Donny struggles to put on his TUX/drive SO FAST/and SCREAM ALONG to the song!

SPRINGSTEEN/DONNY
I GOTTA KNOW HOW IT FEELS...
I WANNA KNOW IF LOVE IS WILD, I WANNA KNOW IF LOVE IS REAL!

INT. CHURCH - LATER

"Born to Run" CUTS OUT again -- the CHURCH CHOIR PLAYS as the WEDDING PARTY makes their way down the aisle.

INT. DONNY'S FIERO - LATER

Back on Donny RACING to the Church! The GREAT MUSIC BREAKDOWN in the middle of "Born To Run" kicks in! He checks his WATCH -- smiles, HE'S GONNA MAKE IT!

BUT AS THE MUSIC BREAKDOWN **SPIRALS** AND **SPUTTERS** TOWARD ITS MID-SONG STOP -- THE FIERO **SPUTTERS** AND **CHUGS** TOWARD IT'S OWN STOP [Yes, just like "The Graduate". Listen to the middle of "Born To Run", THIS WILL WORK AMAZINGLY]!

DONNY
No, no, no. C'mon, baby...

The Fiero **STALLS** as the song **STALLS -- OUT OF GAS!**

DONNY (CONT'D)
NO! Are you kidding me!?
(looks up at god)
ONE TIME!
(thinking, freaking out)
Shit, shit, shit, shit...

He CHECKS his watch, looks around.....THEN WE HEAR --

SPRINGSTEEN
ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR!

DONNY KICKS OPEN THE DOOR AND STARTS RUNNING AS --

SPRINGSTEEN (CONT'D)
THE HIGHWAY'S JAMMED WITH BROKEN HEROES ON A LAST CHANCE POWER DRIVE!

HE SPRINTS THROUGH THE STREETS OF MANHATTAN DESPERATELY!

INT. CHURCH - LATER

Stacey and Todd stand on the altar. Todd looks up at the HUGE CRUCIFIX -- he pulls at his collar, ANXIOUSLY.

ANGRY PRIEST
Todd will receive two blessings today. First, the blessing of Jesus, then, the blessing of marriage.

Todd EXHALES REALLY LOUDLY -- everyone looks at him ODDLY -- he just sorta WAVES.

STACEY
(whispers to Todd)
Take a Xanax.

EXT. MANHATTAN STREETS - SAME

“Born To Run” COMES BACK IN as Donny SPRINTS, GRIPPING his side in pain, really SUCKING WIND, BUT CHARGING!

His TIGHT tux pants SPLIT UP THE CROTCH as he ROUNDS the corner onto Park Avenue -- PACKED with people! He BULLDOZES through the CROWD, PUSHING people aside and SCREAMING!

DONNY
GET OUTTA MY WAY YUPPIE SCUM!

INT. CHURCH - SAME

The Angry Priest continues.

ANGRY PRIEST
Family is the most important thing in the world. Because without it, life has no meaning.
(Todd looks where Donny should be standing, SAD)
But before your two families become one, it’s time for Todd to join an even bigger family. Jesus’ family.
(grabs Todd’s head)
I’m going to dunk your face in this basin of holy water. When you emerge, you will be saved.

The Priest GUIDES Todd’s face toward a small BASIN OF WATER -- Todd RESISTS a bit -- the Priest GUIDES STRONGER -- an AWKWARD TUG O’ WAR, then -- the CHURCH DOORS BURST OPEN! Everyone TURNS -- it’s Ian Ziering!

ANGRY PRIEST
...Uh, are you objecting?

ZIERING
No, I’m Ian Ziering. Just kidding. Sorry, I’m just late.
(smiles at the crowd)
“*Ohmigod, is that Ian Ziering?*”
Yes it is. Thank you. Thank you.

ANGRY PRIEST
SIT DOWN!

ZIERING
(sits)
GO GET EM, HAN!

ANGRY PRIEST
(sighs, annoyed)
Thank you, 90210's Ian Ziering.
Now, I was saying...it's time for
Todd to join Jesus' family.

The Priest LOWERS Todd's face toward the water again. His face draws CLOSER, CLOSER, CLOSER --

THE DOORS BURST OPEN! Everyone TURNS AGAIN -- DONNY SPRINTS IN, DRIPPING WITH SWEAT, SO OUT OF BREATH! He TRIES to talk but can barely get words out!

DONNY
...Wait! I - Ugh. I --
(has to TAKE A KNEE)
Wow.

TODD
What are you doing here, Don!?

Donny TRIES to talk, but has to put up a FINGER ("One second."), unable to CATCH HIS BREATH. Everyone WAITS...

DONNY
(explains to the crowd)
For the record - it was over a
mile. Easy.
(swallows hard)
I - I have something to say...

Suddenly, Helen JUMPS UP!

HELEN HAYWARD
I love you too, Donny!
(everyone looks at her)
Let's run away together!

DONNY
What? No. I mean, you're hot and
all Mrs. Hayward, but, you sorta
tried to rape me.
(OFF the crowd's GASP)
I know, I'm kind of a rape magnet.

Helen sits down AWKWARDLY -- Jon is MORTIFIED/ANGRY.

DONNY (CONT'D)
Um, so...I OBJECT!

ANGRY PRIEST
WE'RE NOT FUCKING THERE YET!

DONNY
Whoa. Do I just grab a seat then, or how do you wanna do this?

STACEY
GOD! Haven't you done enough!?

DONNY
Shut your mouth DEVIL WOMAN!
(the crowd GASPS -- he tries to explain)
It'll all make sense in a second and you'll totally agree with me.
(to her parents)
Except probably not you guys, cause she is your daughter.

Jon CLIMBS over people to get down the aisle to KILL Donny -- Donny CLIMBS down the opposite aisle, FLEEING as he SPEAKS.

DONNY
Todd, you can't marry her!

TODD
Why not, Don? Huh!?

DONNY
Well first off, you don't love her! And, um...love isn't about looks or money or partnerships...love is about...love is...
(thinks)
Well, I don't know what love is. The only woman I ever loved got put in jail forever. But, that's my own thing, and - Han, I know we don't have the most normal family, but me and you, and Miss McGarricle, and Ian Ziering, we're still family. And what's normal, anyway? Look at Stacey's family. They suck, and - um, shit, um, I shoulda written this out a little. What I'm trying to say is, this isn't your life. You're 25, you should be a...bike messenger, or ...a cameraman for Girls Gone Wild, you know? Or something.

The room is <u>CONFUSED</u>, SILENT. Todd thinks about it a second.

TODD
...Is that it?

DONNY
No, also, something about loving yourself before you can love someone else...or, really, not running away from who you are...

TODD
You came in here and broke up my wedding with that?

DONNY
WHO AM I, HUGH GRANT!?
(sighs)
Fine, there's more. I was just hoping that might do the trick, cause I didn't wanna embarrass you, but...she's cheating on you.
(everyone GASPS)
And this time I'm positive. With Chad!
(another GASP)
I know, right? Lot going on.

Todd doesn't know what to say....now CHAD JUMPS UP!

CHAD
I love you Stacey! Let's run away together!

STACEY
What? Chad, c'mon. No. Sit down. Todd, this is ridiculous!

DONNY
Nice one, Life Coach.

Now Chad CLIMBS over the aisles to KILL Donny -- who continues to CLIMB away from his GROWING PURSUERS!

TODD
Donny, do you think making up lies about my wife at my wedding is gonna make me love you?

STACEY
Thank you! Will somebody please ESCORT THIS FREAK OUTTA HERE?!

More of her FRIENDS and FAMILY go after Donny now! Ziering POPS UP and starts BLOCKING them from getting to him!

DONNY
Todd, I'm not lying! I --

Donny GRABS some BIBLES off a tall stack and starts WHIPPING them at the crowd to keep them back while he talks!

DONNY (CONT'D)
I know I've been a terrible father. But, you gotta trust me. This is the worst mistake of your life!
(WHIPS a bible)
I'm not saying you have to love me, I'm just saying, don't love her. Don't marry her.

TODD
(confused)
Am I supposed to just believe you? Do you have *any* proof?

DONNY
Again, sorta hoping you'd just take my word on it. Cause, the proof doesn't make me look great...
(pulls out the CHECK)
She offered me fifty grand to keep my mouth shut. And I took it.
(everyone GASPS)
I'M LOOKING AT 3 YEARS OVER HERE! *But*, I've learned a lot in the last few days. About being a dad. It's about sacrificing yourself for your kids. And Todd, to know you're in any pain would feel even worse than getting pounded in the ass in prison - which is probably what's gonna happen - because, well...
(chokes up)
I love you.

He hands him the CHECK -- Todd looks at it, AT A LOSS.

DONNY (CONT'D)
I'm sorry, man. She's just marrying you for your money.

TODD
(to Stacey)
Is all this true?

STACEY
You're really gonna listen to *him!?*

TODD
(looks at the CHECK)
Is it <u>true</u>?!

Stacey sighs, FED UP.

STACEY
God, sweet, fine, I'm marrying you for your money. Big deal.
(the crowd GASPS)
"*Ohmigod, I can't believe she's marrying him for his money.*" Get over yourselves, it happens all the time. You're marrying me cause I'm hot. Which, if you think about it, is way more shallow. At least a guy can go and work for money. It's based on some talent or some drive. Men base their entire thing on how someone's born! On their genes! You tell me which is more shallow.

DONNY
...Wow. I still hate you, but that is a really good point.

The audience NODS, kind of agreeing. Suddenly, Chad BREAKS FREE from Ziering, and RUNS at Donny --

ZIERING
DONNY!

Donny puts up his FISTS, ready for him -- but before he gets there -- TODD KNOCKS CHAD OUT COLD WITH A STIFF RIGHT!

DONNY
YEAH! THE LEVINE BOYS ARE BACK!

TODD
(turns to Stacey)
...Goodbye, Stacey. Goodbye.

She LAUGHS defiantly. Donny TAKES THE CHECK back from Todd (not as SUBTLY as Donny had hoped). Todd looks at Donny... Donny SIGHS, then CEREMONIOUSLY RIPS UP THE CHECK!

EXT. MANHATTAN - SUNSET

Donny and Todd walk away from the church.

DONNY
I love you, Todd.

TODD
Han.

DONNY
Really? Awesome. I love you, Han.

TODD
I hate you...
(long beat, looks at him)
Dad.

Donny smiles HUGE. They walk into the SUNSET, Donny puts his arm around Todd -- CLUMSY as they walk. He pulls it back.

DONNY
Sorry, yeah, too soon, right?

Donny just awkwardly SLAPS Todd on the ass like a football player as Springsteen's "Walk Like A Man" BEGINS...

CUT TO:

CLOSE ON A SIGN: "DON AND HAN LEVINE'S COCKTAILS AND DREAMS".

INT. DON AND HAN'S COCKTAILS AND DREAMS - 1 YEAR LATER

A PACKED BEACH BAR. THE PLACE IS ROCKIN'! SLOW MOTION: Donny and Todd FLIP and TOSS bottles and glasses in elaborate unison as everyone CHEERS (EXACTLY like the movie "Cocktail")! They both SMILE SO WIDE!

TWO HOT GIRLS BLOW KISSES at Todd seductively. Todd WINKS at them, coolly, then SLIDES their drinks down the bar!

ONSTAGE, Ziering plays guitar as Champale sings back-ups. Then...Mary McGarricle comes around the corner with a tray. She KISSES Donny. **DONNY AND TODD SMILE AT EACH OTHER WIDE!**

SPRINGSTEEN "WALK LIKE A MAN"
I remember how rough your hand felt
on mine on my wedding day,
And the tears cried on my shoulder
I couldn't turn away,
Well so much has happened to me
that I don't understand,
All I can think of is being five
years old following behind you at
the beach tracing your footprints
in the sand,
Trying to walk like a man...

THE END

OVER CREDITS:

INT. YMCA - DAY

CLOSE-UP ON A SIGN: “SEXUAL ABUSE SUPPORT GROUP”.

A group of MEN sit in a circle and listen as a guy, TIM (45), CRIES his way through a story.

TIM
So...and now, I mean, I can’t go to a baseball game without absolutely breaking down. Anytime I see a bat...I - I can feel it. Inside. And - I mean, I just start bawling.
(chokes up)
Sorry. That’s all I can do today.

MODERATOR
It’s okay, Tim, very brave. Thanks for sharing. Okay...who’s next?
(looks at Donny)
We’ve got a new member. Donny, would you like to share?

DONNY
Sure. I guess. Hey, I’m Donny Levine and --

ALL
Hi Donny.

DONNY
Oh...hi. It’s really like that? I thought that was just in the movies. Um, well, anyway...I guess my thing started when I was 13. My teacher came on to me, and well, you know, I didn’t really know what was right or wrong I guess. She told me that she loved me and --

TIM
She?

DONNY
Yeah. She.

TIM
Was she...ugly?

DONNY
No. She was hot. You might've seen pictures of her. It was all over the news. Mary McGarricle.

GUY 1
Wait. You're Donny Levine? You didn't get molested, you had an affair.

DONNY
Well --

GUY 2
Wait a second. She was *really* hot. I used to beat off to her picture from the paper. What the hell do you think you're doing here?

DONNY
Well, I thought this was a safe --

TIM
Yeah, I think when other people are masturbating to pictures of the person that "raped" you, it doesn't really count.

MODERATOR
Wait a second here --

GUY 2
I wish I was raped by her tonight.

DONNY
It was actually pretty traumatic --

GUY 1
(pissed)
Traumatic!? Try getting fisted by your dad's business partner in the back of his LeBaron for nine years!

GUY 2
Yeah!

DONNY
(stands up, CLAPS ONCE)
Okay. I've learned a lot.

BLACK OUT.